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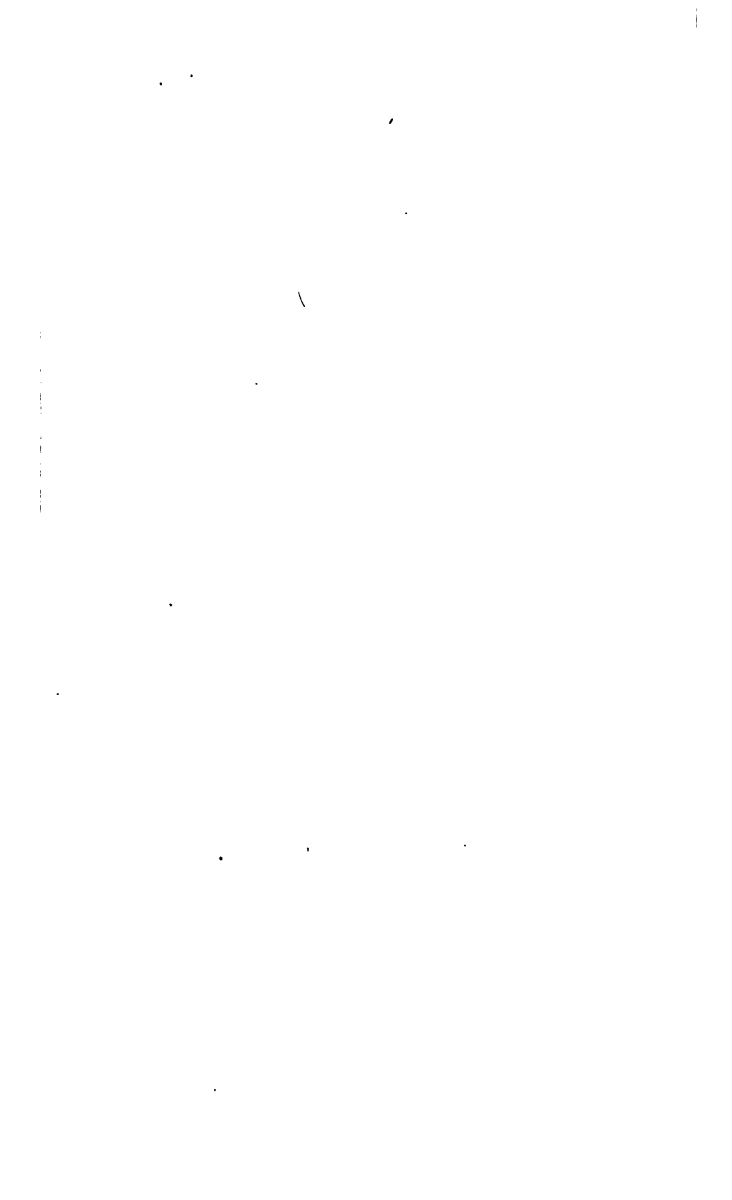
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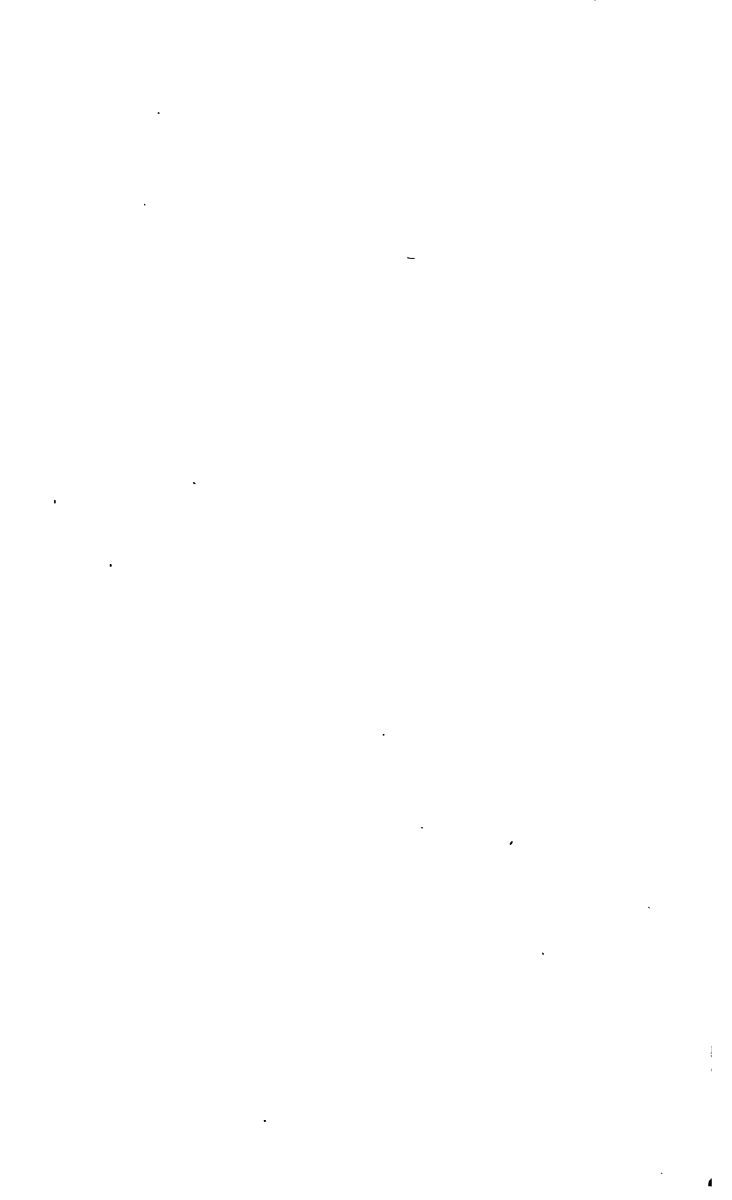
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N O T E S
ON THE
PRESENT STATE AND PROSPECTS
OF
SOCIETY
IN
NEW SOUTH WALES;
WITH AN
HISTORICAL, STATISTICAL, AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
ACCOUNT
OF
MANILLA AND SINGAPORE.

BY
ALICK OSBORNE,
SURGEON ROYAL NAVY.



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TO
THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY,

THE
FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,
AS A SMALL TESTIMONY OF RESPECT AND ESTEEM

FOR MANY OF THE CORPS,
AND BEST WISHES FOR THEM ALL,
BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

ALICK OSBORNE.



PREFACE.

MANY of the Author's friends thinking the state of the Colony of New South Wales, condition of the Convicts, &c., are somewhat at variance with received impressions here, and that an account of Manilla and Singapore would interest many persons besides those engaged in the eastern commercial speculations, have induced him to consent to the publication of the brief Notes he made during a Voyage and Residence at New South Wales, and also at Manilla and Singapore, in 1832 and 1833.



SOCIETY

IN

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CHAP. I.

WE sailed from Portsmouth on the 15th of June, 1832, in the ship *Planter*, of 368 tons, with 200 convicts, for Sydney, New South Wales. On embarkation, the prisoners were surprised to find good biscuit, beef, pork, peas, flour, raisins, lemonade, wine, &c. issued to them, in lieu of the coarse brown bread and indifferent beef sometimes supplied by contractors for the hulks. We had favourable weather at the commencement of the voyage, and got sight of, and passed, on the 30th, Porto Santo, and Madeira, islands once so famous for the richness of their wines and the salubrity of their climate.

Their credit on the latter account has declined since the termination of the war, which opened the classic and delightful shores of Italy to the invalid; and the taste for the wines of Madeira which had been gradually sinking, perhaps received its death-blow from the fastidiousness of our late gracious monarch, George the Fourth.

These islands were discovered in 1418, by John Gonzales Zarco, and Tristram Vaz Terceira, Por-

tuguese gentlemen who were bound on an expedition to Africa, and driven off by stress of weather ; and from the circumstance of their fortunate escape, named the first Porto Santo, and the other, being covered with wood, they named Madeira.

The convicts have hitherto behaved tolerably well, and are now beginning to enjoy themselves after the first brush of sea sickness. Having gone out with Irish convicts on a former occasion, I find a sad difference between the English and them. The one polished, artful, and vicious,—poor Pat simple, innocent, and as tractable as a child ; with a civil word you can do any thing with Paddy.

In one of my voyages from Cork, there happened to be among the rest a father and two sons for sheep-stealing. Old Murtagh was advanced in life, the sons fine athletic young men. Two days after embarkation, I observed Rory, the eldest, eyeing me very wistfully, but apparently unwilling to trespass : I beckoned him aft, and desired to know what was the matter, hoped the old man kept up his spirits, &c. : emboldened by my manner, he simply begged, “ if your honour would be pleased to divide the bolts between me and Dennis, for the ould man’s getting tender, God help him ! and I’m afear’d he won’t get to the end of the journey any way.” I felt ashamed at having overlooked the poor old man so long, (he was fourscore, but I did not know he was so old,) and instantly removed the old man’s irons, amidst the prayers and benedictions of the whole party.

On another occasion, there was a complaint made of the biscuit being in very small pieces. I ordered a whole biscuit to be produced, and desired the complainant to eat it ; he began to break it and commence. “ Now,” said I, “ you complain of the

bread being small, and yet you break this before you eat it." — "Sure enough, your honour, we never thought about that, and we won't be after troubling your honour any more any how;" and certainly there was very little trouble with them the remainder of the voyage.

July 29th.—Crossed the equinoctial line; the weather fine, and climate delightful; the prisoners, basking in the sun, seem to enjoy themselves vastly. We open the prison doors at sun-rise, and they all take their beds on deck, and stow them in the netting, and then bathe (a bathing tub supplied by government,) before breakfast. Some assist in washing decks, wringing swabs, &c.; some turn the winch for the rope-maker, others clean out the prison, some carpentering, shoe-making, tailoring, and employment, if possible, is found for every one. At ten o'clock, boys mustered to school till twelve, and again, when the decks are swept up after dinner, to school from two till four. After four, the decks are cleared up, work ceases, and they entertain and amuse themselves with various Olympic divertisements, tumbling, climbing, and dancing, which are exercise and amusement. On some occasions I have supplied gloves, for sparring exhibitions for an hour or two; and, in addition to the salutary operation of the exercise, I think it tends to dissipate bilious feeling, and prevents many petty broils and contentions below.

We have now repeated complaints of petty thieving in the prison at night, stealing bread, tobacco, or any thing to keep the hand in. Sometimes they steal trowsers and blankets, for the purpose of destruction, out of the pure spirit of mischief, aware that they cannot use them, they tear up, and throw them overboard, or into the water closets. Some-

times the culprit is caught in the act, then we punish him with twelve or sixteen hours of solitary confinement on bread and water, and for a second offence, one dozen lashes, which always procures us a respite from all offences for a week or ten days afterwards.

It is astonishing what an elevation of spirits exists with these unfortunates. They are always as cheerful and happy as the day is long.

They are all Optimists, and being at the bottom of the wheel, expect every revolution will elevate them in the scale of society; and they mostly indulge in brilliant anticipations of their ultimate success in the colony. I always endeavour to favor the best view of the matter; it inspires confidence, promotes cheerfulness, and exerts a most beneficial influence on their health and conduct during the voyage.

August 12th.—In latitude 38° south; the island of Tristan De Cunha in sight, but the wind freshening from the westward, with appearance of hazy weather, obliged to bear up without communicating.

The island is round, high, and of a conical shape, about thirty miles in circumference; summit never clear of snow. I visited it in October, 1829, when the inhabitants consisted of six women, seven men, and fifteen children. The climate is genial, though cold and foggy in the winter months, June, July, and August; the soil is fertile, and they possess abundance of cattle, poultry, potatoes, &c., for which they have a little trade with the South Sea Whalers, which frequently touch here for refreshments.

The weather is cold, and nights raw; we have now issued the flannels and warm clothing, which

has been carefully hoarded for the occasion ; and we now give a gill of wine on alternate days, which has hitherto been given only on Thursdays and Sundays.

We have swinging stoves in the prison to dry up any damp and make the place as comfortable as possible ; and windsails down day and night, unless it rains, to keep up a constant circulation of fresh pure air.

September 16th.—Passed the island of St. Paul's.

October 10th.—Entered Bass' Straits, which separate New Holland from Van Diemen's Land, with a continuance of favourable winds, and got sight of the coast on the following day.

The appearance of the land along the coast is far from attractive, and presents the unvaried aspect of solitary sterility ; and the brilliant anticipations, the longing for a sight of this land of promise, this Eden of the imagination, (for all have heard some part of the glowing accounts which have been given of Australia,) are dispelled by the gloomy prospects of the drear reality.

CHAP. II.

ANCHORED in Sydney's Cove on the 16th of October ; and the following morning, as in duty bound, waited on his Excellency the Governor, to deliver to him a letter of introduction from a friend in England.

The Governor being engaged, I had not the honour of seeing him. Delivered my letter to his private secretary, a young man of pleasing address and genteel deportment, who informed me that it was quite sufficient to put my name in the book, which I complied with, and had not the pleasure of seeing the Governor from that day to this.

About a week after our arrival, the convicts were disembarked, and assigned to the different applicants in the country, with, I believe, as much impartiality as possible, though not to the entire satisfaction of the community. On our arrival, and that of two ships the following day, having in all about six hundred prisoners, there were in office applications for three thousand five hundred servants, (the harvest was about to commence,) so that there would remain two thousand people dissatisfied because their demand was not instantly attended to, when perchance some neighbour got one ; and for the best reason in the world,—there were not prisoners sufficient to answer the demand.

The Assigning Board have a most unpleasant

and thankless duty to perform; and I may here express my conviction that the present members, Messrs Riddle and Hely, perform that duty in the most upright and conscientious manner, in addition to other important duties, and I believe I may add, without the slightest emolument or remuneration whatever.

The capital of Australia appears to be in a prosperous and flourishing condition; trade increasing, (whale fishing carried on with great success,) provisions good, plentiful, and cheap, and the farmer remunerated for his labour and capital employed.

'Tis true, an order from home for the future sale of all land has cast a temporary cloud over those pleasing prospects, by having checked, if not put a total stop to the tide of emigration for the present. If it shall be found to produce this effect, no doubt a vigilant Government will speedily rescind the obnoxious order, and will raise the revenue thus obtained from other obvious and available sources.

As it is only just and reasonable that those who derive the whole benefit from convict labour should contribute something to lessen the burthen of the parent country, in the expense of sending out the convict labourers, would it not be more productive to the revenue, as well as greater encouragement to emigration, to grant lands in fee, subject to a nominal quit-rent after seven years, and make a very low charge for prison servants? for example,—for every male servant assigned, where less than five, 1*l.* sterling per annum; for more than five, and under ten, 1*l.* 10*s.*; for more than ten, 2*l.*; servants in town, 2*l.* each; and tickets of leave, 2*l.* per annum: and finally, all mechanics, artisans, &c., to be hired by tender, to the best offer.

Connected with this regulation, it might also be considered expedient, that no individual, however extensive his possessions, should have more than fifty assigned servants, while any one individual required one.

Without going further into detail of this measure, which is founded on strict justice, and reciprocity of interest between the settler and community at home, I conceive it would realize about sixty thousand pounds sterling per annum in New Holland alone, and defray the whole charge of transportation for four thousand convicts yearly.

Few, I imagine, will question either the justice or expediency of some such measure, though no doubt a mighty clamour would be raised, and objections started, and particularly by those who find the present system work well, and happen to have the number of servants they require; but many are not so fortunate, and I do think the present proposal would not be altogether unpopular.

The minimum Government price of land is five shillings per acre; but in point of fact, it is not worth the cost of clearing; that is, it would not fetch the cost if offered for sale afterwards. But the farmer goes on by slow degrees, his cattle increasing, and subsisting on his establishment in the mean time, so that he never feels the actual cost of clearing at all; and that strong incentive to him—competence or independence in perspective, smooth the way over the roughest range of the Blue Mountains.

At the sales of land, which frequently take place in Sydney, some choice farms can be procured under five shillings per acre. On the 15th of November, 1832, one, on a favourable part of Hunter's River, was sold for three and ninepence an acre;

so that small capitalists, from one thousand pounds and upwards, need not be deterred from coming out. Land and property must always be transferred from the profligate and improvident, and many having embarked in agricultural pursuits in this country, with little knowledge or experience, have got involved with the shop-keeper or usurer,—they must say farewell to all the fairy visions of rural felicity and ease.

As I know there is a strong though smothered feeling in favor of emigration in some parts of the country, it may be gratifying to learn that there are now no convicts in New South Wales, and also that it is no longer a penal colony. The name appropriated to the convicts is now "Prisoners of the Crown," as more in accordance with the refined sentiments of humanity; and the colony has now assumed the more dignified appellation of "The territory of Australia."

This, though trifling, demonstrates a kind of precocious advancement; a mistaken sense of self-sufficiency, which will, at no very distant period, hurry this colony into opposition to the legislative enactments of the father land.

The people, every one knows, are divided into two distinct classes, the free and prison population. The latter, of course, are by far most numerous, and possess, among their number, very many wealthy individuals, highly respectable for their probity, and uniform upright conduct since their emancipation.

There is now a third class, the most important of all, springing up,—the currency-descendants of prisoners and others, natives of the soil. They consider themselves inheriting a *right* in the land of their birth, which no foreigner can either alienate or possess.

The aristocrats, as they have been reproachfully termed, the free, old larger proprietors, are as respectable and independent a body of gentlemen as are to be found in any country. It may appear invidious to name any one in particular, but whoever is at all conversant with the colony, must know the families of M'Arthur, Blaxland, Cox, Piper, Rankin, How, Moore, Throsby, Bell, Lawson, Sir J. Jameson, Brooks, Johnson, Lothbridge, M'Leod, Scott, M'Intire, besides a multitude equally respectable, but of more recent arrival.

There has prevailed a slight mistake or error in the mother country, about the advantage of labourers and artisans emigrating to this country. Free labour never was, nor ever will be in demand, where convict labour can be procured with so much facility as in New South Wales at present, and even mechanics now meet with great disappointment on their arrival. The farmers all, of course, prefer prison labour, no expense, comparatively speaking, attending it, and the servant is under their controul. It has been a *custom* to exclaim against convict servants; they are careless, they waste and destroy more than they are worth; I would prefer paying for free labour if it could be procured, and all this kind of cant, to impress the Government at home that they are doing them a favour by supporting their prisoners. At this time there is no chance of a mechanic receiving in Sydney more than ordinary wages at home, and I happen to know some who cannot get employment at all, saddlers, &c.; and a blacksmith who came out in the ship with me, has declared, that if his wife and family were not coming out by the assistance of the Emigration Committee, he would return in

the same ship, for he could do better at home than here, and would be more content in future. The large farmer never requires a supply of manufactured articles from the town; he has his blacksmith, carpenter, shoemaker, &c., and he is in a better position for supplying the wants of his poorer neighbours, than consuming the surplus labour of tradesmen. It is not unusual for an artisan, a blacksmith in particular, and perhaps some other callings also, to earn for his master from fifty pounds upwards per annum, by supplying the wants of the neighbouring farmers, who are glad to pay the town price, to avoid the trouble and expense of going so far for accommodation.

A similar error prevails respecting free young women; the situation they stand in on their landing may easily be imagined, but is not necessary for me to describe.

Some young men, farmers' sons, lately arrived with a view of getting employment as overseers, &c., and were surprised when they were offered twenty pounds per annum, or perhaps less; they did not consider that their services were not available at first; that it took time to acquire the method of business, and, above all, to learn to "battle the watch" with the convict servants before they could be useful to their employers. It is not quite so easy as many deluded parents imagine, when they thrust forth their hopeful Johnny, to make a rapid fortune in the "El Dorado" *Australiensis*.

CHAP. III.

THERE has been a good deal of difference of opinion elicited lately before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the treatment of convicts in New South Wales. In my humble opinion, the condition of the prisoner is sufficiently penal. With small farmers, emancipated prisoners, &c., they are tolerably comfortable, that is, they live exactly as their masters, but with the more opulent farmers they receive the Government ration which is sufficient to subsist them, but not comfortably. They live in a wretched hut, neither wind nor water-tight, (the climate is mild and genial,) their beef and flour, or wheat, is weighed out on Saturday morning; there is neither time nor person allowed to cook the victuals; the meat will speedily get noisome from ants, cock-roaches, &c., and having no place of safety to keep it in, they are obliged to boil it all at once, eat away as long as it lasts, and live Thursday and Friday on short commons.

There is a certain allowance of clothing annually, which is, of course, sufficient; yet it is melancholy to meet in remote places, carters, labourers, &c., in all the squalid nakedness of abject poverty.

This picture is not overcharged, and I regret to say, far too general. Servants are frequently sent some distance from home with carts, cattle, &c., and are absent perhaps a day or two; it is not usual on these occasions to make any extra provision for them, and they subsist on the elymosynary

supply of some poor cottager, who, probably, is obliged to borrow or steal the master's fatted calf to feast the hungry servants. It is much to be wished that some plan could be devised to induce the master to issue the provisions daily; and where there are a certain number of servants, one might be excused work till dinner time to cook for the rest: this, with a patch of ground *enclosed*, at the huts, for pumpkins, onions, cabbages, &c., would greatly ameliorate the condition of the servant, without entailing the slightest extra expense on the master, besides the sweet satisfaction it must be to a well-regulated mind, to witness the unfortunate beings comfortable, whether they deserve it or not. They may be, and most frequently are, thankless, careless, reckless, and improvident, but it is wonderful what a change might be effected by steady unremitting perseverance in an uniform course of kindly benevolence; they must be less than human, who would not quickly feel and appreciate it.

At all events, 'tis worth the trial; the very exercise of humanity will add twenty years to a man's life, and I can fancy I see the venerable octogenarian, with smiles usurping the place of wrinkles on his brow, spending his last days in the comfortable retrospect, of having endeavoured to alleviate human misery; and at length, like a child wearied with play, descend with cheerful resignation to the everlasting sleep, accompanied by the prayers and benedictions of the bondsman and the unfortunate.

"But if meadows and trees in their cheerful verdure, if flowers in their bloom, and all the vegetable parts of the creation in their most advantageous dress, can inspire gladness into the heart, and drive away all sadness but despair,—to see the rational

creation happy and flourishing, ought to give us a pleasure as much superior, as the latter is to the former in the scale of beings ; but the pleasure is still heightened if ourselves have been instrumental in contributing to the happiness of our fellow creatures,—if we have helped to raise a heart drooping beneath the weight of grief, and revived the barren and dry land where no water was, with refreshing showers of love and kindness.”*

Of the female prisoners, I have little knowledge ; they are only required to serve two years in one place to entitle them to a “ ticket of leave.” Nothing can be more humane than this regulation, but few in comparison reap the advantage of it. They have acquired loose, idle habits, and in general, country people prefer to do as well as they can without their services ; there is, perhaps, a virtuous prejudice against them.

The unassigned servants are kept in the factory at Paramatta, and generally amount to between five and six hundred ; they are regularly employed carding and spinning wool, and from hence also, after a certain period of good conduct, they obtain the “ ticket of leave,” and many have the good fortune to get married and comfortably settled from the factory : it is gratifying to record, that their subsequent conduct makes some amends to society for their former life, most of them pursuing a steady, exemplary course of life, in the various relations of wife and mother—a strong proof in my mind, that very many of these unfortunates are the victims of circumstances, which they could neither resist nor controul, and not habitually so profligate and depraved as they are generally supposed to be.

* Dr. Jeremiah Seed, an eminent divine of the last century.

The Capital of the territory is rapidly increasing in size and splendour ; and its fair proportions excite the pleasing astonishment of all strangers, who had formed some idea of it from examples of European colonies of the olden time.

In forty-five years has a magnificent city sprung up in a wilderness ; good roads branching off in all directions ; the sails of commerce from all parts of the world furling in the harbour ; woods and forests giving way to golden harvests ; sheep and oxen browsing where the kangaroo formerly could scarcely find space for his salient perambulations.

“ All is the gift of industry ; rough power,
Whom labour still attends, and seldom pain.”

Thompson's Seasons.

The shops in George Street and Pitt Street, vie with some of the most fashionable “ Magazins des Modes” in Regent and Bond Streets. The roads in the vicinity of the town are kept in excellent condition, and immediately adjoining there are some very pleasant walks and drives. The pedestrian will be delighted with the promenade round the Government demesne to Mrs. Macquarie's seat ; the scenery is highly picturesque and beautiful ; the path leading along the shore, past the garden, (which is always courteously open to all respectable persons,) affording splendid views of the shipping, Garden Island, the various sheltered inlets on the northern shore, and in the extreme distance the precipitous bold cliffs of “ The heads of Port Jackson,” surmounted by a light and rather elegantly constructed beacon.

This light-house on the south head is an attractive object, about seven miles from Sydney ; the road is excellent, and it is the frequent, nay, general resort of equestrians of all orders.

The road to Botany Bay is not so good, but it also possesses its attractions, in a very neat monument erected there to the memory of La Perouse, by Monsieur Bonganville, in 1825. There is also a tablet erected to the memory of Captain Cook, by Governor Brisbane, on the spot where that distinguished navigator first landed in 1784.

CHAP. IV

November 3.—Set off on an excursion to the district of Illawarra, about ninety miles distant, in company with Dr. Imlay, staff-surgeon. You first arrive at Liverpool, twenty miles from Sydney, situated on the northern bank of George's river, or rather creek, which is now beginning to assume the appearance of a neat village. There is a snug church, a court-house, barrack, and a magnificent hospital; and perhaps, from an hundred and fifty to two hundred houses,—many of them substantial stone and lime.

There is a good hotel, with all necessary accommodation, though by the bye I never proved it, for the kindness of my excellent friend Dr. Hill, whose hospitality (the spontaneous result of the most kindly benevolence of nature) afforded me and many others a resting-place of the most agreeable description. The road from hence to Campbell Town leads through an improving country, with a prospect of Glenfield, the hospitable mansion of Mr. Throsby; Denham Court, Mr. Brooks; Lippington, Mr. Cordeaux; Eagle Vale, Mrs. Jenkins; besides many other respectable establishments which are not so conspicuous.

Campbell Town, twelve miles from Liverpool, possesses a neat, small brick church, a court-house, an excellent hotel, kept by Mr. Tate, another decent public-house also, and a few houses, say twenty or thirty. The country around Campbell

Town is becoming populous; small farm-houses are, visible in all directions; and indeed the general appearance of the country in this district, in point of cultivation, is such as might realize the reasonable expectations of the friends of Australia.

We got refreshments and fed the horses at Tate's, and proceeded at a slow pace to Appin, distant about ten or twelve miles. We arrived at sunset, and found the future town of Appin to consist of one solitary inn, on the left-hand of the road, and another house, formerly an inn, "*vis-a-vis*," on the other. The inn is kept by a man named Carey, an Emeralder, and at his house we got every thing in the most hearty abundance, if not in the very best style. Our dinner consisted of rashers of bacon and eggs, grilled fowl, brown bread, nice new butter, black tea, and brown sugar; and it was difficult to convince Mrs. Carey, his kind and bustling spouse, that the fare was approved, until demonstrated by the demolition of almost all the edibles on the table. A glass of gin and water, a good bed, and a fatiguing day's ride, insured an enviable night's rest.

On approaching the door of the inn to alight, I observed a rough, round, bushheaded Hibernian, ready to take the horse, and scrutinizing me rather earnestly at the same time, I recognized him instantly.—"Riley, is that you?" "it is, your honour, me sure enough, but, och Doctor jewel," and bolting off to the rear of the premises, hallooing out with might and main, "Miky, Miky, bad luck to you, run man, here's our own Doctor come again." Returning promptly with Michael, they were overjoyed to see me, and I was well pleased to meet the poor fellows, apparently comfortable; they had

been transported from Ireland in 1825, went out under my superintendence, had served out their time, and were now working for themselves.

“ Well, Riley, how have you got on since I left you ? ” — “ Bless’d be God, your honour, I hadn’t much cause to complain ; I sarved all my time with two masters ; and, barring the want of the blanquit sometimes in cou’d weather, and the belly often very light, I got on pritty well ; sometimes it was hard enough, but I nivir went before the gintlemin to complain ; for being no scholar, your honour, I didn’t want to come under any rigulation, good or bad ; and now I’ve got the run of the house here, and if it wasn’t for the thoughts of the woman and child at home, your honour, (scratching his head and turning half round to hide the moisture gathering in his eyes) I believe I’d be comfortable enough.” He had been a soldier in the 87th, and wounded at the battle of Barrossa ; he heard that the regiment got in to trouble at home, which gave him great concern. I heard from this poor unlettered man details which convinced me that the penalty contemplated by a humane legislature is not so much mitigated as some conscientious persons have of late supposed.

The native unsophisticated Hibernian had neither envy, hatred, nor malice against any one ; sometimes, he said, “ when the master would be cross there would be a kind word put in by the mistress, and if it wasn’t that the women have all their own way here, it would be a very bad country, your honour ”

How different the warm, grateful attachment of these creatures, who had received from me no kindness beyond the sober discharge of duty, to that of English convicts, who went out with me at other times.

Many are free and getting on well in Sydney ; and often have I observed them skulk past me in the street, and in the market, at a quickened pace, and looking askew lest I should recognize them. I always rejoiced to hear they were doing well, and always carefully abstained from hurting their feelings by accosting them.

Paddy stands alone, an isolated being, for kindness and warmth of feeling ;* and I can never sufficiently admire and applaud the sentiment of a distinguished foreign traveller, who attributes all Paddy's faults " to a warm heart and poetic imagination."

The road from Appin to Illawarra crosses Tuggerah Creek, by a shelving precipitous dangerous path, and then ascends the summit of the range of coast mountains, which incloses the Illawarra district, a low fertile tract extending from Lima to Shoal Haven, a distance of fifty or sixty miles. Proceeding along this ridge about twelve miles, you must alight and lead the horse down the most steep, rugged, and impracticable pass that can well be conceived, to the residence of Mr. O'Brien, whose windmill is a land-mark in the wilderness.

The name is sufficient to assure the wayfarer of every kindness and hospitality ; it is literally the oasis in the desert, where the unaffected cordiality and frankness of an ancient Irish family give double zest to the excellence and abundance of their domestic fare.

* This eulogy of course does not apply to the myriads of Spalpeens who have trodden the M'Adamized paths of the world, and who, to my certain knowledge, possess as plentiful a scarcity of that same feeling as any of their enlightened neighbours.

From Mr. O'Brien's to Woollongong the tract is along the beach, winding round the shore of several small bays, which indent the coast, and is covered with sand, making it alike tiresome to man and beast. Woollongong is a township, and possesses an indifferent boat harbour, where is shipped cedar and farm produce for Sydney, boats starting regularly three times a week. It is likewise a small military station, and the residence of a district magistrate; there is an inn, and a few houses in the neighbourhood.

Almost all the land in the district of Illawarra is located, in large grants of two thousand five hundred and sixty acres, but as a number of small settlers, discharged soldiers, &c., are also settled here, it will soon make one of the most improving and populous districts in the colony.

The road to the southward winds through a flat forest country, with occasionally several hundred acres of fine meadow land, without a tree, and covered with the most luxuriant grass, on which herds of cattle, of the best description, seem to thrive uncommonly well.

We passed the farms of Mr. Spearing, Captain Waldron, Mr. Blaxland, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brown, Messrs. Johnson, and Dr. Elyerd, and arrived at four o'clock in the afternoon at our destination, the farm of Mr. O——, a recent Irish settler. We were soon refreshed with a comfortable dinner, and had an opportunity of observing the great progress made by industry and perseverance, in forming a comfortable establishment in the wilds of Australia in a short time. The owner received the grant in 1829, and now (November, 1832) resides in a commodious and substantial brick cottage, with two parlours and five smaller apartments, and

a convenient brick kitchen detached : employs, free and prisoners, about twenty-one men. He had a considerable surplus of corn last year, and at present seventy acres of wheat in ear, and four down with maize, (it was a jungly forest when he begun) with abundance of the best stock ; viz. horses, sixteen ; horned cattle, one hundred and twenty ; twenty dairy cows, and sixteen working bullocks ; pigs, from eighty to a hundred ; all this in three years, without sinking five hundred pounds.

And though last, not least, there has been an addition to the family circle, of two sons and one daughter, which has assisted to subdue mamma's repugnance to the bush ; and she now declares, that in place of being lonely and tiresome, that it is more cheerful and interesting than living in a town which she had been accustomed to the previous portion of her life.

The admirable management of this young establishment, the healthy appearance of the children, and contented aspects of the parents, (having realized to the utmost their anticipation of emigration,) with their present prospect of peace and plenty, present a picture at once gratifying and delightful to every one interested in the perfect success of emigration.

I am aware of the fallacy of citing particular cases for general encouragement or imitation ; because, to have the same success, they must have the same prudence, the same industry, and above all, they must have the same good fortune, circumstances which seldom chance alike to different individuals ; but I mention it merely to demonstrate how much may be done in a short period, without the command of extraordinary means. The common and fatal error which new settlers commit, is

commencing on too large a scale, in the hope of quick returns. They lay on too much stock, and sink their small capital at first; and having no surplus for the market for a couple of years, with increasing expenditure, they find themselves perhaps involved with the shopkeeper or money-lender; and once in debt, nothing far short of a miracle afterwards can extricate them.

A farmer arriving in the territory with one thousand pounds in his possession, should place five hundred at interest immediately, (he will have no difficulty in procuring ten per cent. with unexceptionable security.)

We will suppose he gets a grant on the old system of two thousand acres he must procure a small house for his family, at 5*l.* per month; purchase ten dairy cows, 30*l.*; one steady-trained draught ox, 8*l.*; four four-year-old oxen, to train himself, 16*l.*; two mares in foal, 30*l.*; two breeding sows, 4*l.*; one strong cart, 16*l.*; plough and farming implements, 20*l.*; kitchen utensils, &c., 10*l.*; stock poultry, 2*l.*; seed-wheat and maize, 10*l.*; one ton of flour, 13*l.*; one ton of beef and pork, 15*l.*; one chest of tea, 4*l.*; one year's cloathing for four servants, 12*l.*; carpenter's tools, 10*l.*; sugar, 6*l.*—Total, 206*l.*

Let him proceed to his grant, before his family, and expend 100*l.* in building his house, the remaining 200*l.* will meet the incidental expences of the first two years, besides the incalculable advantage of purchasing every thing wanted for ready money, he may also be able to put on a dozen or two of sheep, when he is ready for them; with such a beginning, and ordinary industry and attention, success will be certain.

Nevertheless, until the free grant system is re-

sumed,* it would be rashness in a small capitalist, say 500*l.*, to embark for Australia. The expence, risk, and trouble, certain; the success, in many cases, from the nature of the soil and climate, only problematical; and if two or three such seasons as 1827 and 1828, succeed after the location of a new settler of small means, he must inevitably be ruined.

If all new settlers, *bond fide* farmers or occupiers of the soil, were entitled, on production of satisfactory testimony of property to a certain grant, subject, after seven or ten years, to the usual quit-rent, it would act as a stimulus to emigration, and be the most economical and effectual premium a liberal and paternal government could bestow. That land should be sold in the present form is highly advantageous to capitalists and to others wishing to extend their possessions, nothing can be more beneficial; but the plan of selling to new settlers will undoubtedly deter many persons, who reflect on the nature and quality of the soil, from embarking in an undertaking which only threatens them with poverty and disappointment.

Of the state of society in Sydney I can say little. There are occasional parties, given by the public functionaries, but perhaps more formal than social; and from the conflicting collision of interests and opinions which existed, I may venture to say that a friendly unreserved social intercourse was almost unknown.

At the same time I am proud to be able to state, that in the domestic circle of Mr. M'Leay, Mr. Justice Dowling, Mr. Commissary Laidly, Lieut.-Col. Shadforth, Mr. Hely, Dr. Bowman, Mr. Raymond,

* For the present government price is just about sufficient to keep a man afloat till the farm produces something.

&c., one is sure to experience all the gratification of refined society, accompanied with the most kind and friendly hospitality.

Of the mercantile portion of the community, I have only the pleasure of acquaintance with Messrs. Dawes and Gore (connected with that very respectable firm in Lawrence-lane), whose establishment fully supports the respectable and honorable character of the British merchant.

General Bourke has commenced very auspiciously: he gives the utmost attention to every thing tending to advance the interests of Australia, and I have no doubt, that, by a steady, impartial, and uncompromising career, neither stooping for popularity on the one hand, nor conceding too much to the prejudices or feelings of an old established party on the other, he will continue to enjoy the confidence and co-operation of every good man in the colony. He has just now returned from a tour of inspection at Bathurst and the Western Provinces, where he was received with every loyalty and attachment—in demonstrations alike honourable to the givers and receiver.

I had almost forgotten one of the most interesting circumstance connected with the growing importance of the Australian capital. Sydney, with a rapidly increasing population, 30,000, was miserably supplied with very indifferent water, which soon excited the attention of General Darling.

The engineer (Mr. Busby, a man of sound sense and extensive practical knowledge,) was directed to make the necessary surveys, and he reported the practicability of bringing an abundant supply of good water from a lagoon near Botany Bay, by making a certain embankment, and boring a tunnel through some inconsiderable elevation.

General Darling embraced the plan with the zealous eagerness of a man vitally interested in the well-being of the town ; and, in despite of the most violent, virulent, and vindictive efforts of a *free and enlightened press*, and contrary to the expressed opinions of nine-tenths of the population, carried it forward, and had the satisfaction of proving Mr. Busby an engineer of the first order, and himself the greatest public benefactor to the capital of the territory.

The constant flow of pure water from the fountain in Hyde Park (besides supplying the barracks, dock-yard, shipping, &c.) will be a more imperishable monument of General Darling's government, than the crazy, tumble-down edifices which used to disgust one at every corner, inscribed with the name of the founder, anno domini, &c., in large characters.

“ Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,
Will ne'er inscribe the marble with his name.”—*Pope*.

Those who formerly paid fourpence a bucket for muddy water, and even that scarce at times, can only fully appreciate the benefit conferred on Sydney by General Darling. The comfort and convenience resulting from it are now universally acknowledged, but, such is party malice, never in grateful conjunction with the name of the patriotic individual to whom the credit is entirely due.

CHAP. V.

November 21st.—H^{AVING} received permission from his Excellency, the Governor, to return to London by Manilla, I again embarked in the "*Planter*," and sailed this day. Eight days after got sight of Norfolk Island, the "*ultima thule*," of Australia.

Norfolk is about thirty miles in circumference, of considerable altitude (two thousand feet), and covered with a species of beautiful pine, different from those known in Europe or America, and named the Norfolk Island pine: the soil is fertile, climate pleasant and healthful, but the coast is rugged and precipitous, rendering the landing at all times difficult, and frequently dangerous and impracticable. It is at present a penal settlement, where incorrigible offenders are sent from Sydney and Van Diemen's Land.

There are no free-settlers permitted to establish themselves here; and it appears admirably calculated for a prison, the natural obstacles to escape being insurmountable. It is at present under the control of Lieut.-Col. Morissett, a gentleman of sound judgment, and benevolent and humane disposition; and it is said the country nearly produces sufficient to support the establishment.

December 7th.—At daylight this morning, discovered the Island of Tucopia: it appeared a small high island, in form of a compressed cone, with pre-

cipitous cliffs round the eastern side, and some lofty trees thinly scattered on the ridge at the southern extremity. As we altered the bearings by compass to south, it assumed the shape of a saddle, the north-east end much the highest, and extending longitudinally to the south-west. I computed, whilst passing very rapidly, its circumference to be about fifteen or twenty miles, and its altitude three thousand feet, it being clearly visible after we had sailed eight leagues from it.

This island is placed on the Charts nearly a degree east of its true position, being situated in latitude $12^{\circ} 15'$ south; longitude $168^{\circ} 35'$ east.

The following morning before daylight, hove-to close to Duff's group, consisting of ten or more small rocky islets, the centre one being the largest, about five or six miles long. They extend in a chain from south-east to north-west about eight or nine leagues. We perceived no broken water, or appearance of reef, so that probably there may be deep water and channel between them. The weather wet and cloudy, and it is remarkable that no birds have been seen this last two or three days. These islands form the northern boundary of the New Hebrides, or Charlotta Archipelago, and are remarkable for the shipwreck and destruction of the French navigator, La Perouse, and his unfortunate companions in 1788.

December 20th.—At eight o'clock in the morning saw Harper's Islands. This group was discovered by Captain Harper, in the ship *Ephemina*, bound from Sydney to Canton about six years ago, and consists of ten or twelve islands, one of them about twenty miles long, extending in an elevated ridge from south-east to north-west, about two thousand feet high, and sloping gradually to the sea, and

covered with wood. The others are small and very low., situated at the north-west extremity of the largest one, and are in latitude $6^{\circ} 45'$ north ; longitude $157^{\circ} 50'$ east.

I shot a man-of-war bird to-day, and in his gizzard were four very small seed pearls, from which I conclude a beneficial pearl-fishery might be discovered among the islands in these seas.

December 8th.—At three o'clock this morning the seaman at the helm was startled by the splash of a man overboard from the quarter ; the alarm was given, the ship hove in the wind in an instant, and boat lowered as quick as possible, pulling in the supposed direction, but returned without success. On mustering the crew to discover who was missing, it turned out to be a passenger, who had embarked at Sydney for Manilla, in search of health and happiness. The poor gentleman was in a very infirm state of health, suffering under a severe asthmatic affection, and also labouring under deep mental despondency.

He appeared a person of acute sensibility and nice sense of honour. He had embarked his property—three or four thousand pounds in merchandize, consigned to people in Sydney. The parties became bankrupt—the sequel is short : Mr. * * * * became totally ruined ; his mind gave way, and he saw no resource but quitting a world where he had only experienced ingratitude and dishonesty.

His conversation was frequently of death, and the different modes of perishing most easily. He knew that Cato perished by his own sword, Seneca by bleeding to death, and Socrates by poison, and numerous instances of distinguished individuals of our own time, which impressed us with the belief

that he meditated self-destruction; but as the change of scene had a beneficial effect and cheering influence on his mind, we were in hopes, as his spirits improved, the morbid feeling would pass away.

January 1st.—At eight o'clock this morning, made Cape Espirito Santo, the north-eastern extremity of the Island of Samar; and at seven in the evening entered the straits of San Bernardino, which separate Samar from Luconia. We were occupied five days in working down these straits, and on the 6th of January, at eleven o'clock, a.m., anchored off the town in the bay of Manilla.

The first aspect of the city from the sea, is, by no means, prepossessing the town and adjacent country being barely above the level of the ocean.

About half an hour after coming to an anchor we were visited by the captain of the port and health-officer, and were then permitted to land, and directed to pay our respects to the Governor.

We were accompanied by Mr. Keirulf (to whom the ship was consigned), and his Excellency the Governor "Senor Don Henville, Captain-General of the Philipinas, and Admiral of the Spanish Navy," received us in a courteous, I might almost add, civil manner. totally divested of the austerity of office; conversed on indifferent topics for ten minutes: said he expected the pleasure of seeing us at his table; and we made our *congé*, favourably impressed with the urbanity and politeness of our reception.

I cannot help thinking these foreign Governors have a better method of uniting the suavity of private life, with the state of place, than our military chiefs, who, if they are not like the veiled prophet of Khorassan, are so frigid, (cold being a relative term, implies too much warmth,) so frosty,

formal, stiff and stately, that it requires a practised eye to distinguish the Governor in the closet from the General on the parade ; in short, a person much in the habit of mixing with military men, will, on seeing an English Governor, instinctively bring the thumb to the outer seam of the trousers, and draw up in the attitude of " attention, eyes right."

Every one is aware that Manilla is the seat of Government of the Spanish dominion in the east ; consisting of the Archipelago of the Philippine Islands, a territory of vast extent and importance.

As it has been the policy of the Spanish court to throw the veil of obscurity over their foreign possessions, a short sketch of the early history of these islands may be an acceptable prelude to the account of their present state.

CHAP. VI.

THE Philippine Islands were discovered by Don Hernandes Magellan on the 17th of December, 1521, the day of Saint Lazarus, when he caused the first mass to be celebrated on the island of Mindanao, and named the group, as was the custom of that time, in honour of the Saint, the Archipelago of Saint Lazarus, or "Isla De Poniente," Isles of the West, he having sailed westward from America on this expedition, and took formal possession of them in the name of his master, the King of Spain, under the sanction and authority of a bull from Pope Alexander VI., dated May 4th, 1493, dividing the unknown portion of the globe between the monarchs of Spain and Portugal.

Previous to the arrival of the Spaniards they were called "Bisayes, or Pintada," because the natives were in the habit of daubing their bodies with paint, and were subsequently named Philipinas, by "Senior Don Lopez Villalobos, in honour of Philip the Second, then Prince of Asturias.

Magellan took possession of Zebu, and in a conflict with the natives, was killed by an arrow or spear thrown by one of their chiefs. The inhabitants at that time consisted of two distinct races of people; those who inhabited the plains were called Indians by the Spaniards, and Negritos who occupied the mountains.

The Indians were of the ordinary stature, had olive complexions, large eyes, rather broad noses, and long hair; they resided in huts raised on posts

from the ground, and were clothed with a kind of coarse cloth garment.

The Negritos were of more diminutive stature, nearly as black as the African negro, low foreheads, flat nose, and woolly hair, "*il pelo paso*," of the historian; living naked in the mountains, only the private parts covered with a piece of bark of a tree, and supporting themselves on the precarious subsistence of the chase, by means of arrows and spears, in the use of which they were extremely dexterous.

These people were represented as living in perpetual hostility with each other, the mountaineers making frequent predatory eruptions on their more settled neighbours of the plain, and exacting a certain tribute for permission to take wood from the hills for the construction of the huts.

The Indians (probably Malay colonies) were subdivided into petty tribes or governments under the management of their own rulers, and every chief constantly endeavouring to extend his dominion by valour or policy. The people were again divided into three classes: first, "*Dueno's De la Rancheria*," proprietors or lords of the soil; secondly, free men, who had received their manumission as reward for service, &c.; and lastly, slaves.

The descendants of the free men are to this day called "*Timara*," which, in the language of the country, literally signifies freedom.

They possessed no written laws, but were guided by tradition, and their own ideas of natural right, corrupted in numerous instances by their prejudices and passions. The supreme decision rested in all cases with the chief, who was assisted by

the experience and opinion of a select body of the elders.

Restitution was the great fundamental principle of their code;* but in criminal cases, of assault, &c., where death was the result, nothing short of severe retaliation would satisfy them; and if the aggressor happened to belong to another "ran-cheria" the cause became common, war commenced, and only terminated in the total extinction or captivity of the tribe. If one was suspected of robbery, he was obliged to take a stone out of a pot of boiling water with his naked hand; if he was not scalded he was cleared of all suspicion, but if injured, or he refused the ordeal, a fine of a certain number of gold beads was imposed in addition to restitution of property; the principal portion of the fine became the perquisite of the chief. Adultery, and want of respect for their seniors, were punished by a fine of beads, but cheating and usurious overreaching in traffic, were as now, not only lawful but creditable.

Their marriage contracts were extremely curious. They married only one wife, but the rich man possessed many concubines, who were mostly his slaves. They always married their nearest relations, sisters excepted; and, after consummation, if the bride preferred returning to the abode of her parents, it was only necessary to restore the marriage portion to the husband, and the divorce was lawful and complete.

The dowery was paid in two methods to the parents of the maid. The first was called "bigay suso," remuneration for the milk which the mother

* Vide Numbers, 5th chap. 7th verse.

had afforded the child in her infancy, and became the exclusive property of the mother.

The second, named "biga caya," was the real portion, and was generally expended on the festivities on the happy occasion.

The bridegroom was moreover obliged to render service to his wife's parents for some years previous, assisting in harvest time, and supplying food for other labourers.* On these occasions, also, it was incumbent on the relations and dependants of the bridegroom to pay certain deference and respect to the friends of the bride; and if they failed in any of these points of etiquette, it frequently afforded a pretext to the other party to break off the match, encourage other suitors, and extract also all possible gifts from them.

In revenge for this whimsical conduct and bad treatment before marriage, the unlucky bride was frequently treated as a slave afterwards, compelled to prepare the food, pound out the rice, and in fact do all the menial offices of the household; and, after all, was fortunate if she did not sometimes receive a sound bastinado, whilst the slothful husband drawled away his time in all the listless stupidity of inaction. The interest fathers have in thus disposing of their daughters, has continued the disgraceful custom to the present day, in spite of royal ordinances and decrees of the church, which have been issued from time to time for its suppression.

The marriage ceremony consisted in the sacrifice of a pig by the priest with his own hand; at the

* Curious coincidence with the custom of the ancient patriarchal times.—Gen. xxix. 18.

same time bestowing the ordinary benedictions on the happy pair, afterwards presenting a portion of roasted pork to the elders, who were always assembled on this important occasion; next succeed obscene gesticulations to the bride, which conclude with a customary dance, and a scene of "borrachera," debauchery, and drunkenness, of two or three days' duration.

They had no prescribed form of worship, nor did they possess idols or images. They did not believe in a future state of rewards and punishments. They possessed a vague idea of the future existence of the spirit, and thought it necessary to make actual provision for its subsistence, by oblations of meat, alms, &c. ; and it was usual the fourth day after the decease to place an empty seat for the occupation of this invisible body.

They imagined the souls of their ancestors inhabited some of the loftiest trees in the forest, and were accustomed to make offerings and sacrifices to them in hopes of averting any unusual calamity, which they always attributed to their influence. They resided in commodious huts, raised on posts from the ground, thatched with palm leaf as at present, and their chief subsistence was rice, which at that remote period was as now the staple product of the country. They likewise cultivated a variety of pulse and legumes, as mongo, french beans, millet, and many others, and they had domesticated goats, pigs, fowls, ducks, and the "carabao," or buffalo, which still retains its original appellation, and is by far the most useful and important animal in the country. The mountains abounded in deer and winged game, of infinite variety, while the lakes and rivers were literally swarming with the

most delicious description of the finny tribe, and the unmolested turtle had peaceable possession of the beach.

The glory of the conquest of the Philippine Islands was reserved for the reign of Philip II., and achieved by the valour of Don Miquil Lopez de Legaspi, a noble Biscayan, and the prudence of the Augustin friars, more especially Padre Fr Andres de Ferdanetta, by the submission of the people "Tagala," (country around the bay of Manilla) on the 19th of May, 1571.

On that day they celebrated the feast of the most holy and puissant Virgin, and in the plenitude of their zeal, dedicated the future city to her patronage; and what may appear extraordinary, that very day a soldier discovered, under an immense palm tree on the beach, a miraculous image of the Virgin, which image is to this day reverently deposited in the sacristi of the royal chapel. In the year 1821, the first nunnery, of the order of Santa Clara, was established in Manilla, by Madre Giromma De Toledo, superior, a lady of great virtue, and most vigorous observer of the rules of San Francisco. In a short time twenty young ladies took the veil, and it continues to the present time its reputation for chastity and sanctity.

In 1639, on pretence of a concerted insurrection, twenty-three thousand Sanglayes (descendants of Chinese and natives) were put to the sword.

In 1645, Manilla was visited by an earthquake, which demolished the whole city, except the Augustine Convent, and the chapel which contained the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary before-mentioned. On this occasion seven hundred people perished in the city alone; and in other parts of the island they experienced dreadful volcanic

eruptions, particularly in the province of Cayagan, which destroyed whole villages, with all their inhabitants.

These volcanoes ejected torrents of burning sand, from which there was neither escape for man nor beast. These subterraneous commotions lasted the space of twenty days, during which period the people had forsaken their habitations, and lived precariously in the open fields. It is likewise related, that during the continuance of these dreadful calamities, an Indian had in his house an image of San Francisco, whose eyes were constantly flowing with tears; and that holy saint is now honoured for his commiseration, by a church being dedicated to him, and named, from the circumstance, San Francisco de Lachrymas.

In 1719, an insurrection broke out, headed by the Archbishop, when the Governor, Senor Don Fernando Bastamente, and his son, were murdered by two friars, and the archbishop assumed the reins of Government. He was subsequently punished for this treason by being translated to the bishoprick of Mechoacan. The monks were finally pardoned; and the dignified prelate, in lowly imitation of his Divine master, was obliged to suffer for the sins of the people on his own shoulders.*

It would neither interest nor amuse the reader to pursue the dry detail of history through the petty wars, which ultimately subdued the inhabitants of these islands, and reduced them to the Spanish yoke. They were divided among themselves and jealous of each other, so became an easy conquest, notwithstanding the frequent hostility and collision

* Vide Historia de Filipinas, by Frayli Martinas Uniga, an Augustin Monk.

of the church with the executive portion of the Government. In all these dissensions (and they were as unceasing as the grasping disposition of the Romish hierarchy was insatiable in those times) the church had the ascendant, and the Governor died broken-hearted, if not by more unfair means, having been superseded in disgrace; thus the power of the lowly ministers of the Gospel became predominant.

The island of Luconia, or Luzon,* is the principal of the Philippine Islands, and extends from thirteen to eighteen degrees north latitude, and from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and twenty-four of east longitude. It is of an irregular shape, compared by Spanish writers to an arm, of which Manilla forms the elbow on the western side.

The country is mountainous, a broken irregular chain extending from north to south, with some insulated mountains, standing alone in the centre of a plain, and many of volcanic origin.

The highest mountain in Luconia is Magan, in the province of Albay; it is of a conical shape, and can be discerned thirty leagues at sea. I suppose its altitude may be about ten or twelve thousand feet, as it is below the limits of the snow in the torrid zone. Another lofty mountain stands in the centre of a lagoon, called "Bombon," and affords sufficient proof of its formation, having been the effect of volcanic eruptions.

* The island derives its name from a singular source. On the arrival of the Spaniards, every hut of the natives had a large wooden mortar in the porch, for pounding out their rice. To the Spanish inquirers for the name of the country, they ironically answered, Lusong, the name of this mortar; and accordingly, from this mistake they named the island Luzon, or Luconia.

There are many extinct volcanoes, and many still occasionally burning and numerous boiling springs ; these indicate the existence of unquenchable fires within the bosom of the earth.

South of Luzon are the islands of Mindoro, Panay, Paraqua, Negros, Masbati, Samar, Mindanao, Zebu, Bohol, Leyte, and numberless others of less note, amounting in all to about one thousand or twelve hundred islands, included in the territory of the Philipines. All the principal islands are governed by an ahaldi and corregidor, under the control of the Captain-General at Manilla. These islands have two seasons in the year: the north-east monsoon, commencing in October, and lasts till April or May. During this period the weather is dry, temperate, and delightful, the thermometer varying from 70° to 80° of Farenheit. During the south-west monsoon the climate is hot and sultry, with almost incessant rain ; and yet, notwithstanding the moistness of the climate for six months in the year, and the islands not half cleared of wood, it is considered most healthful, the violent epidemics of Batavia and Bengal being entirely unknown, and the people in general attaining considerable longevity. The whole population of the Philipines is estimated at three million, which I imagine may be rather below truth. The productions will be treated of in another part of this journal.

CHAP. VII.

THE City of Manilla, the capital of the Philippine Islands, is built on the eastern shore of a magnificent bay, of about ninety miles in circumference, which receives, besides many other large rivers, the "Passig," on the south side of which stands the city, or citadel, but the town of more considerable extent, occupies the northern side, and communicates with the city by one bridge only, a little to the eastward, outside the walls of the city.

The entrance of the river is defended by a battery planted on the extremity of a pier, extending two or three hundred yards into the bay; and at the extremity of another pier, on the opposite side, a small light-house is erected. The river, which is not more than one hundred and fifty yards wide, is from ten to fourteen feet deep, and has a rise of tide of about four feet.

The city is well built and compact, surrounded by a strong granite wall with angular projecting bastions, and a double ditch, and extending in a circumference of about three miles, the city covering a space of about 1500 acres. The situation is low, so that there is no advantageous point of view; still the dark grey wall, the red tiled roofs of the houses, and the church towers and spires only visible, give a sombre tint to the picture. The streets cross each other at right angles, are flagged at the sides, and kept in very tolerable

order. The houses, the Moorish quadrangle of two story, have balconies, verandas, and sliding sashes, set with oyster shell in place of glass, which effectually excludes the glare of a burning sun, and admits on the upper story a softened light, though nothing of course can be distinguished through it.

The upper part of the house only is inhabited by the family, and is generally divided into the "sala," eating room, a large room, or rather lobby, at the top of the stairs; a saloon, a capacious apartment in front of the house, a sitting room for the family, and four or five large airy bed rooms.

The saloon, or front room, is furnished, in addition to the usual sofas, &c., with five or six handsome globe lamps depending from the ceiling, and lighted every night; and all the rooms have a door communicating with the "sala," as well as with each other. The servants have no apartment appropriated to them, but generally sleep in the balconies, or on a mat placed on the floor.

The city contains the Viceroy's palace, the convents of San Augustin, Dominico, San Francisco, and Recoletes, the nunneries of Santa Clara and Santa Catalina. The royal chapel, the cathedral, the church of San Domingo, Madra San Paulo, San Juan de Latran, San Thomas, San Augusta, Santa Isabel, Recoletes, besides a chapel attached to each of the religious establishments, and likewise extensive barracks, capacious stores for ordnance, and all other munitions of war, and possesses about twenty-five thousand inhabitants, exclusive of the garrison.

The road from the citadel, over a neat substantial stone bridge, leads into the centre of the town, where all the merchants reside, and where all business is transacted. The town is of considerable

extent, about ten miles up the river, and one mile broad from the Custom-house to Tondo Church. It is intersected in all directions by creeks of the river, forming many small islets, so that there is water communication with almost every street. These rivers are nearly dry at ebb tide, and become a great nuisance from being the receptacle for sewers, dead dogs, pigs, &c.—frequently loading the atmosphere with putrid exhalations. The houses in the leading or principal streets are built of stone and lime, of two stories high, and similar in every respect to those in the city; the remainder, and by far the most numerous, are bamboo houses of different magnitudes, erected on posts about six feet from the ground, or built on a basement of stone and lime. They are generally well furnished, and kept uncommonly clean and airy; the walls are mostly adorned with a profusion of costly images of the Virgin and other favourite saints, and the rooms have a multitude of looking glasses, of which I counted no fewer than seventeen in one: the floor is laid of dark wood, and always kept carefully polished. Every apartment has a number of lamps, and on occasions of “fiestas,” or holy days, when they are lighted, the rooms have a very splendid appearance.

The town is divided into six districts or parishes, named from the church appertaining thereto, Tondo, Binond, San Gabriel, Santa Cruz, Quiapo, and San Sebastiano, and contains about two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

About two thousand Europeans, four thousand Chinese, the remainder Mistizos (descendants of Chinese and natives) and Spanish Indians; viz. aborigines and descendants of Spaniards of the Roman Catholic religion.

The town is lighted with lamps in the principal streets, and patrolled at night by a military guard, so that riots, street robbery, or housebreaking are entirely unknown.

The market is held daily (Sunday not excepted) in an extensive place, and most abundantly supplied with meat, poultry, fish, game, fruit, and vegetables of all kinds, at a cheap rate. Frogs (the hind quarters are the delicacies) and unhatched ducks and chicks, are in great estimation, particularly amongst the Chinese, and a good supply of them is daily in the market, which, as in all tropical countries, is held from six till nine in the morning.

There are no vexatious tolls or market dues of any description; the poor industrious negro who catches a few frogs or snares a few sparrows, is allowed to purchase a handkerchief with his real, without paying a moiety to swell the stores of a chartered corporation, or of a wealthy monopolist.

The Captain-General and Governor of the Philippines is solely an executive officer; he possesses neither the control nor management of the finances, but receives a salary of thirteen thousand dollars, something under £3,000 sterling per annum. His patronage is extremely limited; nothing can be done, no appointment made, without the authority, from the "Counsel for Affairs of India," in Spain; consequently, delay and a thousand obstacles are presented to every improvement or change.

There are no coffee-houses, nor places of public resort, permitted in this territory. No diario or newspaper of any description; a calandaria or almanack being the only authorised publication, so that the whole race of newsmongers and politicians are exotics in this country.

The financial department is distinct and independent of the local government, under the direction of "the Ministerio de real Hacienda," and two accountants, the "Contador a Mayor," "y tribunal de Cunstos."

The revenue is at present in a most flourishing condition. Tobacco manufacture, segars, and segarillos, 900,000 dollars. Spirit Estanso, 350,000. Customs, 250,000. Tribute, or poll-tax, 400,000. Extra Tax on Chinamen, about 90,000. "Bandio," stamp-paper, uncertain. Cock-pits, also uncertain. Having a net annual revenue of nearly two million of dollars.

The church-establishment consists of one archbishop, and two bishops for Luconia, and one bishop of Zebu, for the southern islands; four religious orders, San Augustin, San Domingo, San Francisco, and Recolites; of these, the Dominicans are the wealthiest; they are all much respected for the sanctity and piety of their lives, and their unbounded charity and unwearied zeal; they each maintain a large hospital and dispensary, where the aged, the helpless, and infirm, find all the alleviation of their misery in the power of humanity to afford.

The Franciscan Friars have a lepers' hospital, an extensive establishment about a mile from the town, and any individual found with symptoms of that dreadful malady, is immediately, *nolens volens*, placed there for the remainder of his life.*

* It was an ordinance of the ancient Persians, that a leprous person should neither enter the city, nor have communication with any of his countrymen."—*Herodotus*, b. 1, s. 138.—

Vide Numbers, ch. v. ver. 2; and Leviticus, ch. xiii.

At present there are about one hundred and fifty patients in this hospital; the wards are clean, airy and capacious, and, apparently, every attention is paid to their comfort, but scarcely an effort made towards their cure; medical aid being administered by the brotherhood, and not any professional attendant.

There is one university of San Thomas, founded by the Dominicans, for divinity and law, and it is well known that very many clever lawyers have sallied forth from this university. The churches in the provinces are under the spiritual direction of European friars, assisted by native Curés, and it is hinted, (for since the abolition of the inquisition, scandal has even attacked the church), that many of them not only forget the sanctity of their vow, but relax so much from the austerity of monastic life, as to live in a state of worldly concupiscence in the society of women and children.*

There is a reverend father, curé of Colacan, near Manilla, who always carries loaded pistols in his perambulations. He is a man of herculean stature, and robust strength; can demolish a moderate-sized ham for breakfast, eat a whole sheep for dinner (the sheep are small here), and quaff a large bottle of wine at one draught, never using a glass. This worthy pillar of the church was formerly a soldier in the campaigns of the Peninsula with Lord Wellington, and is, notwithstanding his powers of digestion, much respected here in his new capacity.

The friars in general, from their subdued life, are ignorant of the world, and for the most part unlettered; however there are many exceptions,

* That state so much deprecated by St. Paul in Thesalonians, ch. iv., and Colossians, ch. iii.

many being distinguished for high literary attainments, particularly the present Archbishop Padre Jose Sequi, of the Augustin Order, and Frayh Carlos Arbia, a Dominican. The two convents of Santa Clara and Catalina preserve the utmost reputation for sanctity and chastity of the vestals, and it has never been even hinted that

“ Even here where frozen chastity retires,
Love finds an altar for forbidden fires.”—*Pope*.

The military force of the Philipines consists of one European regiment of infantry, called the expeditionary regiment of Asia, of eight hundred strong. Three regiments of the line, each eight hundred natives. One regiment of light infantry, eight hundred. One regiment of militia, called the Luzon grenadiers. One regiment of cavalry, consisting of one squadron of Europeans, and two of natives. One regiment of artillery, officered by Europeans. Besides two troops of horse-artillery, one native and one European. They have likewise enrolled militia regiments of Pampayna, Pangasinang, Ylocos, and Fletcheres, of which the staff are on pay, and they can be made available on the shortest notice. The soldiers are native Indians—*Mestizo's*, descendants of Chinese and Indians, never being admitted into the ranks.

The judicial establishment consists of one “ Regente” chief-justice, and five “ Oidores,” two fiscals, and one assessor. The people are disposed to litigation; but all civil suits for recovery of debts, &c. are disposed of in a more summary method than in our courts: however, the glorious uncertainty of the law is sometimes manifested in appeal to the Supreme Court of “ Audiencia,” in Spain. In criminal cases there is frequently the most extra-

ordinary delay in passing sentence: one instance occurred not long ago, a criminal convicted of murder eighteen years previously, became useful to the jailer, and was employed by him to go to market to cater for the other prisoners,—a thousand chances of escape presenting themselves. One Friday morning on his return, the jailer told him to go to the “Chapella,” as sentence was pronounced, and he was to be executed on Monday following.

When in the Chapella, they are permitted to have any thing they wish for, and of course the comfort of a religious guide and confessor to smooth the dreary path to eternity.

Murder and sacrilege are the only crimes punished with death: other crimes,—working in chains for a certain period or for life. At present there are about six hundred convicts employed in public works at the arsenal of Cavite, a town on the bay, about fifteen miles south of Manilla; and perhaps one hundred in the town of Manilla, in cleansing and repairing the streets.

There is also an anomalous court called the “Consulado,” which takes cognizance of, and decides, matters connected with trade and commerce. It assumes the character of a court of equity; its proceedings are more in the form of arbitration, and its importance is very much appreciated here. The members of this court are merchants of the first respectability, I believe, associated with the Governor, the Intendant, and Collector of the Customs, and and also have the arrangement of duties, customs, &c., or any thing unprovided for in the tariff.

The government of this country may be considered a kind of theocratic monarchy; for although there is a Governor-in-chief and an Alcalde in every province, still the “Frayle” is the person looked

up to by the populace. Education to a certain extent, appears to have engaged the attention of the clergy; almost every one can read, and it is not unusual to see little girls about the bazaars and outside the huts, employed in instructing younger ones in spelling, &c., but here it ends: they read the missal, few, excepting those in trade, learn writing and arithmetic. With respect to the morals of the people in general, I think they are on a par, if not superior to most other countries; they scrupulously observe the ordinances and ceremonies of their religion; one never sees or hears any flagrant outrage against the rules of decorum; no rioting, drunkenness, swearing, nor obscenity, which frequently disgrace the streets of the first city in the world.

With their private peccadillos (and of course they are not exempt from the lot of humanity) a stranger has nothing to do, and he should only record striking and palpable points, I did not wish to spy the nakedness of the land; in their conduct they are modest and decorous, and apparently innocent and happy in their lives.

The mountainous portion of the islands, are still in the occupation of the Aborigines, the indomitable Negrito, whom they are gradually enticing into habits of civilization. After much entreaty, a friar got permission to reside in one of their villages, and by persevering in kindness and conciliatory persuasion, soon succeeded in prevailing on them to embrace the Christian religion, and acknowledge their subjection to the Spanish dominion. More rigorous methods of proselytism have not been adopted towards this race for the last century.

CHAP. VIII.

THE staple articles of produce are rice, sugar, tobacco, hemp, coffee, cocoa, indigo, cotton, wax, oil, pitch, amber, sulphur, antimony, gold, copper, pearls, dye-woods, and also many other things of considerable importance in commerce. The climate is congenial to horses, cows, buffalos, pigs, goats, which they possess in abundance, (sheep do not thrive well), turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls, pigeons, partridges, quails, snipe, and an infinite variety of water fowl for the table; besides myriads of the feathered tribe, only admirable for the brilliancy and beauty of their plumage, but not one distinguished for the melody of his song.

There is a little bird ("*passeres, rostrum emarginatum*,") which crows at stated intervals like a cock, and there is a small house lizard constantly pronouncing distinctly "*toco toco*."

The caiman, a species of large alligator, inhabits the rivers and lakes. One of great magnitude, measuring twenty-four feet in length, was slain about a year ago by a gentleman named Russell; its companion is still the terror of the whole neighbourhood on the eastern side of the lake Bahi.

The manufactures of Manilla are confined to coarse cotton cloth, hats from the pine leaf, and variegated mats; tobacco into cigars, sugar and rum. They also make handkerchiefs from the fibre of the pine-apple leaf, called fine cloth, much finer

than muslin, of most beautiful and delicate texture, but perhaps more curious than useful. The cigar manufacture, in the hands of government, employs daily about four thousand women and girls, who can earn, on an average, nine and ten dollars per month, which is considered good wages here. The establishment is in a large range of building, formerly a jesuit's convent; the work-rooms are on the first floor, and are well ventilated, clean and airy. The operatives are well dressed, cheerful and content; they work eight hours every day (holidays excepted.) On the ground-floor is the manufacture of "segarrillos," paper cigars for home consumption, and employs daily four hundred men, who each earn from eight to twelve dollars per month.

The smell of the tobacco is pungent and unpleasant as you walk through the rooms, and I am informed that young girls, long in the employ, frequently become consumptive, but not so often as to excite any serious apprehension on the subject.

The surplus of rice is all taken to China, where there is a never-failing market for it. Coffee and sugar are sent to Europe, in exchange for manufactures amongst which British cottons stand in the foremost rank. Hemp and indigo to the United States, in exchange for dollars, or more frequently bills on Mr. Baring in London. The country is fertile and climate genial, and if the industry of the people be beneficially directed to the development of the various resources of these fine islands, they will quickly become the most productive portion of the globe.

The women of Luconia are not distinguished by the classic outline and Grecian profile so eloquently portrayed in M'Farlane's Constantinople; nor do they boast of the swelling curved line of beauty

of "Hogarth Analysis;" nor is their complexion like

"Morning roses newly bathed in dew,"

and yet, to do them justice, they are not only pretty but interesting. A rather broad angular face, olive colour, large clear black eye, long fine eyelashes, thickish lips, and teeth, when not blackened with the Betel nut, white and even; beautiful long black hair, turned back from the forehead, and rolled up and secured in a knob behind with a wooden comb, or an ornamented pin, are their characteristics. The dress, a lawn jacket, transparent as gauze, fitting the bust, but lined in front over the bosom, a petticoat of striped cotton, and over that a few yards of dark striped silk rolled gracefully round the loins, and reaching nearly to the ankle, but exposing the lower border of the petticoat; and neither connected with the jacket, as the skin is visible between; a very neat embroidered slipper, beautiful hands and feet, graceful, erect, easy carriage, with gentle swing of the arms, symmetrical figure, and modest demeanour; so that, to view this contented simple people in their holiday clothes, and at the "Fiestas," excites in the mind an association of most pleasing ideas. The latter class of females is said to be rather deficient in education; reading and writing is in general the extent of their literary acquirements, and works of fiction or even history they never peruse. Most of the ladies play the guitar, very few the harp or piano, and many add with considerable effect to the soft tones of that simple instrument, the dulcet intonations of a voice naturally soft, sweet, and plaintive, filling the mind with that delicious melancholy which people of nice sensibility are alone susceptible of.

"Untwisting all the chains that tye
The hidden soul of harmony."—*Milton*.

"I'm never merry when I hear sweet music."—*Shakspeare*.

There is not one establishment in Manilla for instructing young ladies in "the use of the globes," or other equivocal accomplishments, (accompaniments they should be called) of the nineteenth century. No dancing or posture master, and yet to be candid, they dance and walk with peculiar grace and elegance. There is not one "Modiste," or dress-maker's establishment in the city, and will it be credited, making their own dresses, they look like human beings; nay, dress in a neat and becoming manner, after of course European models.

Notwithstanding the apparent deficiency in their education, they are domestic and industrious in their habits, good-natured and sociable in their friendship, cheerful and innocent in their amusements, ardent, constant and affectionate in their attachments, virtuous and religious in their conduct, and strongly attached to their children and family.

It has been objected to, that the ladies here undertake the cares, (for even the happy state is not *totally* exempt from care) of matrimony at rather a premature period of life. They are frequently married before fifteen, and begin to look a little past their prime at thirty, when they become grandmothers.

There is little of what, with us, would be termed society in Manilla, no set parties, rarely public balls; but it is usual for the ladies to call unceremoniously on their intimate acquaintances, in the evening, enjoy an hour or two's conversation, partake of chocolate, and "dulce" a variety of sweetmeats, and their husbands call about ten o'clock to accompany them home; on these occasions the children generally

accompany mamma, they are never invited but always welcome—this visiting is called the “*Ter-tulia*.”

In their living they are frugal and temperate, no parade or ostentation at their meals; they dine at two o'clock, the siesta of two hours succeeds, dress and go out for a drive at five, and return after sunset. On these occasions they go out in neat open phaetons, drawn by two ponies; the ladies always in full dress, head bare, hair adorned with a profusion of ringlets, and decorated with flowers, and occupying the right hand in the vehicle. The gentlemen also dressed, and the horses guided by a “*cochero*,” who rides the near pony, frequently clad in a motley and fanciful livery, with his bare foot in the stirrup.

The *Calcada*, a very pleasant road around the outside walls of the city, planted with wild almond trees, and adjoining a spacious common, where the troops parade every evening, is the general resort of equestrians of all ranks. On Sundays and holidays there is really a very delightful display of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred fine light “*berloches*,” whirling gaily along, and filled with cheerful faces and sparkling eyes, glancing from under the arched-brow and down-cast eye-lash, and flashing the secret pang into the bosom of many a youthful cavalier, as he, rising in his stirrups, doffs his “*sombrero*” to the passing vehicle of the apparently unconscious charmer; but a close observer could sometimes detect the furtive glance as she turned the other way, while “*il Senor Pappa*” slowly removing the *segar* from his mouth, with a chilling dignity returned the salute of the youthful aspirant.

There are, besides the *Calcada*, many other very

pleasant roads, and all in capital order at this season of the year. One from the Calçada to the village of Santa Anna, on the "Passig," about four miles distant, is a very delightful drive. On this road you pass the village of Paco, and the Cemeterio or Pantheon, before you arrive at the beautifully unbowered Santa Anna, as it has been termed by an eloquent American writer.

The road is for the most part shaded by clumps of bamboo, interspersed with plantain, mango, lime, orange, and a variety of flowery evergreens; and is enlivened by groups of healthy children from the huts, which abound in a continued chain all the way; here and there, the "casa de campanea" of some wealthy townsman, with its inclosure, forms a striking contrast with the humble, but perhaps more happy and contented abode of the lowly peasant. On the northern side of the river there are likewise many pleasant drives; one in particular, from Santa Cruz, leading between the Leper's Hospital and Chinese burial-ground, making a circuit, and returning round by Tondo Church, was a favourite ride with me.

The path is quite level, winding through paddy-fields, bamboo-hedges, fruit, and market-gardens, thickly interspersed with cottages, wearing the appearance of peace and plenty, in the naked, cupid-like figures of the children at play about the doors. In these excursions, it often occurred to me that the government must be well adapted to the wants of the people; where, in a population of three millions, pauperism is unknown, and all are or seem to be contented and happy. The schoolmaster is said to be abroad, if he should take it in his head to visit this remote region I wonder what he will present them with in exchange for the blissful state

of ignorance, simplicity and happiness, in which they enjoy at present all the comforts of life.

There are at present residing in Manilla forty or fifty British and American merchants.

They are not very sociable, though on the most friendly and intimate footing; there is a competition in commerce, a feeling unfavourable to the kindly sympathies of our nature; each engrossed with the cares of his business, has neither leisure nor inclination for the social pleasures of the table. Occasional dinner parties are given on particular occasions, but so rare as not to be classed among the customs of the place.

A club of these gentlemen have a billiard-table, where they meet every evening, and enjoy an hour or two of social converse; they play for amusement, (no betting permitted) are exclusively select, only admitting strangers by introduction of a member, on Tuesdays, Fridays, and holidays.

The American houses are conducted by gentlemen of great respectability. To Mr. Edwards, the Consul for the United States, I am much indebted for his kind hospitality, and above all, for the frank and cordial manner it was bestowed, as well as friendly demeanour on many occasions; I had also the pleasure to have the acquaintance of Dr. Marmaduke Burroughs, a distinguished physician from Philadelphia, to whose learning and liberality I am indebted for some curious specimens connected with Natural History, as well as some valuable Practical Hints on the Topography of certain Tropical Diseases. I may here observe, that whenever I have had the pleasure of meeting American gentlemen, I have always found them courteous and polite, and liberal and unprejudiced, with a leaning to English customs and institutions. They sing

our songs, they speak our language, (we are naturally the same people,) and I may express my regret that there is not a more intimate political connection and identity of interest between these two great countries.

I had almost forgot the costume of the men of Luconia—a broad crowned black chip hat, a white or blue shirt over the trowsers of striped cotton cloth, with slippers or shoes, a cotton handkerchief, in which red colour predominates, in the hand, or more commonly thrown over the shoulders, and a game cock in the arm, or tied close to the foot. They are passionately attached to the amusement of cock-fighting; cocks are tethered at every door, and labourers, artisans, and servants, always carry their game cock with them; the cocherro sometimes deposits his in the seat of the “berloche,” and you are occasionally, as you drive along the street, startled by chanticleer suddenly answering the challenge of his warlike brethren.

It is said that upwards of two millions of cocks perish annually in Manilla alone; the cockpits are licensed by the Government, from which a considerable revenue is derived.

The inhabitants are addicted to games of chance, and amongst the Spaniards, and upper ranks of natives, play is carried to a great extent at present.

Theatrical exhibitions are sometimes got up here, when they can procure subscribers sufficient to defray the expence. The playhouse is a large shed on the common, erected for a cockpit, and during our stay there were three comedies enacted, pieces of Molière, translated into Spanish.

The house was generally well filled, from four to five hundred people, with a fair proportion of fe-

males. The Mock Doctor appeared to afford the greatest delight, and the efforts of the performers received the most enthusiastic applause. There is a seat enclosed on the right, in front, for the Governor, who is attended in the theatre by a battle-axe guard; and a similar seat on the left for the municipal officers of the city.

For the rest of the audience, chairs are placed in seventeen rows, secured by ratans and bamboos, and numbered; the seats are procured by lottery, so they esteem themselves fortunate who procure a seat near the front. On these occasions every one is in full dress; and for my share I always endeavour to take a survey of the female part of the audience, at every interesting incident of the drama. When I perceive the tear stealing down a lady's cheek, and the sudden sigh escape from her breast, I am attracted to her by an irresistible emotion of tenderness and esteem; her eyes shine with enchanting lustre, through the pearly moisture that surrounds them; my heart warms at the glow which humanity kindles in her cheek, and keeps time with the accelerated heavings of her snowy bosom: I at once love her benevolence, and revere her discernment. On the contrary, when I see a fine woman's face unaltered by the distress of the scene, with which I myself am affected, I resent her indifference as an insult on my own understanding; I suppose her heart to be savage, her disposition unsocial, her organs indelicate, and exclaim with the fox in the fable, "*O pulchrum caput, sed cerebrum non habet.*"*

Sometimes one could observe the open brow and hope-lit eye of beauty suddenly overcast, like the moon by an invidious cloud, at being obliged to

* Smollett.

retrograde for a back-seat, but as evanescent, and like the moon, again resplendent, beaming with the delightful visions of youthful anticipation.

The Spaniards are religious observers of saint-days and holydays, and there is generally a procession in honour of the saint; when all the streets in the neighbourhood of the church where the procession originates are brilliantly illuminated, and decorated with triumphal arches, festoons of artificial flowers, variegated paper lamps, and pyrotechnic devices of various kinds, in the management of which the Chinese display wonderful ingenuity. The houses in the streets through which the procession passes are lighted up in great splendour (it always takes place at night) with tapestry and silks displayed from the balconies and windows. The doors are thrown open, and the "Sala" is laid out with tables from one end to the other, and covered with "cates ambrosial, and the nectared bowl," a profusion of "dulces" of every description, tea, chocolate, cigars, and betel-nuts; every house is filled, and all enter without invitation.

The higher ranks have frequently music and dancing, with open doors, and the same unceremonious ingress and egress already mentioned. Their piety and zeal is measured by the profusion and expence of those "fiestas," so that there is great competition for splendour and display.

On these days of "fiesta," the humblest classes are not without their participation in the amusements of the day. They have improvisadores, or story-tellers, who, generally surrounded by a great concourse of attentive auditors, speak rapidly and emphatically, accompanied with significant gesticulations; the burthen of the tale is usually some traditional legend of the exploits of the ancient

chiefs and heroes of the country, who performed wondrous feats of chivalry, till, at length overcome by the malign influence of sorcery, were confined in some dreary dungeon, and finally released and restored by the divine interposition of the Virgin Mary. These tales are listened to with wonderful attention, and exhibit good tact in the friars, grafting the Romish superstition on the fabulous legends of the natives. They are likewise much diverted with an ambulatory exhibition called "Gigantica," which consists of two pasteboard figures of immense size, tastefully dressed up, a person inside each, which march along the street, accompanied by an itinerant band of music, and an immense multitude of boys, &c., halting here and there, and performing a grotesque kind of dance, and various other antic evolutions. This "Gigantica" is something analogous to (but in converse proportions) to our Punch and Judy, and appears to afford considerable entertainment. No collection of money did I ever observe at any of these exhibitions.

Vast numbers of native women accompany these processions, marching in a row, following the image of the saint, and frequently with their long glossy ebon tresses, negligently flowing over the back and shoulders (perhaps the pin falls out), seemingly unconscious of the admiration of strangers, who have always been struck with the unrivalled hair of the women of Luconia.* I took some pains to enquire into the custom of the toilette, and found the condition of the hair uniformly attributed to ablution occasionally with infusion of a root of a

* Even St. Paul, who was no great admirer of the fair sex, admits—"But if a woman have long hair it is a glory to her, for her hair is given her for a covering," (and an ornament he might have added!)—1 Cor. ch. xi. ver. 15.

nondescript plant (of which I could not procure a specimen, and therefore have named it from its properties *Kather Komcon*), the medical men confirming by their testimony its effects. I procured some, and found it very effectual in removing scurf from the hair. It possesses acrid properties, smarting the eyes, &c., but from its efficacy in softening, cleaning, and improving the human hair, I trust I have done an acceptable service to my fair countrywomen in bringing it to their notice. A small portion for experiment is deposited at the repository of Mr. GARDNER, manufacturing perfumer, 18, Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate, and if it be found to answer the expectations, can be easily procured in any quantity. The custom in Manilla is to wash the hair well with this infusion twice a week, afterwards using purified cocoa-nut oil perfumed, or otherwise, as pomatum; and any person who has ever visited that country can vouch for the visible effects.

CHAP. IX.

January 28th.—VISITED the Cemeterio. It stands about a mile from the city, off the road on the left, as you go to Santa Anna. It is enclosed by a high broad circular wall, and laid out in walks, and planted with ornamental flowering shrubs, and evergreens; and the wall contains niches, or rather cavities, for five hundred and sixty-eight coffins; thirty-six of which holes are reserved for the exclusive occupation of the clergy.

At the lower end of the walk fronting the entrance, stands a beautiful circular chapel, surmounted by a cupola and cross. The interior of this little chapel is chaste and tasteful, walls pure white, with gilt cornice and moulding, and the floor tessellated with white and green tiles. On one side of the altar on the right is a mausoleum for any Governor who may depart this life in office, and a similar one on the left for the Archbishop; the one pointed out by the emblems of power and justice. the sword and scales, the other ornamented with the sculptured mitre, missal, and crozier. This chapel is solely for the performance of funeral solemnities

Behind the chapel is a small Cemeterio for children, containing fifty-four cavities; and behind that, the "Ossario," where the bones are deposited after having lain the accustomed time in the tomb, or been removed for a new occupant. There is something repugnant to our nature in thus exposing

the last frail remnant of mortality to the light of day and the gaze of idle curiosity. Some of the skulls had the hair still attached, and the hollow sightless orbits seemed to my imagination to carry a silent reproof to the disturbers of the charnel-house :

“ What guilt can equal
Violation of the dead, the dead how sacred,
Sacred is the dust of this heaven-laboured form.”

Young.

Still there was no disagreeable smell, no mouldering flesh, to impress one with the idea of premature exhumation. When the body is deposited in the wall the coffin is filled with quick lime, and also the space around it; it is then firmly built up with brick and mortar, to remain two or three years, or till the space be again required.

One of these resting places costs sixteen dollars for the accustomed time, but may be procured for an indefinite period at a commensurate expense.

One of our party (a Scotchman) complaining of the hardship of being ejected so soon, declared he would prefer paying ten times the sum, *and have it for life.*

The people in attendance present a bouquet to the visitors; we received one, and made some small pecuniary acknowledgment: whilst there we saw a man coming down the avenue with a tray upon his head, accompanied by a pensive looking young woman. He deposited the tray at the door of the chapel, and we were surprised to see the corpse of an infant, apparently about a fortnight old, dressed out in tinsel and flowers, and wrapped in a fine muslin napkin; the mouth and eyes of the poor little emaciated figure were open, and it appeared the image of pain, of sorrow, and suffering

mortality, in melancholy contrast with the finery and glitter of the apparel. The clerical functionary soon made his appearance; he was one of the lowest order of the brotherhood, a fat vulgar round-faced personage, below the middle stature. He took up his position in the porch of the chapel facing the body, and hurried over the short formula of sepulture, without a book; and it was then taken and deposited in the earth, on a terrace outside the wall, about one foot beneath the surface.

The female, she might be about twenty-two years of age, holding by the hand a dusky cherub looking boy of three years, knelt beside the grave, looked wistfully in, and requested them to pull the napkin over the mouth to keep out the clay. She breathed no sigh, ejaculated no prayer, but remained fixed in the same attitude about five minutes, then crossed herself devoutly, and moved slowly away after her husband.

“ There was a silent sorrow there,
A grief not to impart;
It breathed no sigh, it shed no tear,
But it consumed the heart.”

We were walking the same way to our vehicle, and accosted the husband: the child was four months old, had never had a moment's health, the mother loved it the more for its sufferings, and he paid four “reals,” about two shillings sterling, for the ceremony and the grave.

Our visit was about five in the evening; we drove to the Calcada, and soon dissipated all gloomy reflections, awakened by the solemn scene we had beheld, in admiring the brilliant assemblage of youth and gaiety, whirling along in their “berloches,” or prancing the stately steed, and enjoying the exhilarating freshness of a delightful

evening, which January always presents in these regions.

The river Passig, which flows into the bay at Manilla, is the "embouchure" of a larger inland lake, called Bahi, about four leagues south-east of the city. The circumjacent country is low, level, and fertile, the river making a tortuous course, dispensing moisture and fertility to the rice grounds in all directions,

About eight miles up there is a populous village of Passig, with twenty thousand inhabitants; and all along the banks there is a continued chain of cottages, whose occupants acquire a livelihood by breeding and rearing ducks, which they feed on small shell fish dredged up from the bottom of the lake. Every hut has its enclosure on the edge of the stream, with its multitudes of these fowl, which appear to be kept in excellent discipline; for when the proprietor, finding any of them adrift, called them in, there was a general rush to arrive first. The river abounds with water-hens, king fishers, &c., and the trees on the banks with a variety of birds of magnificent plumage, many fine specimens of which I have been fortunate enough to procure. There are numerous passage canoes on the river, called "bankas," and many pleasure canoes, in which the merchant, when he can free himself from the perplexity of business, may enjoy some of the finest natural scenery in the world.

On one occasion we dined early with Dr. Keirulf, (a physician, distinguished alike for refined taste, sound judgment, and a great professional knowledge) who had projected a visit to the convent of San Juan Del Monte. We dined at two o'clock, and the banka being in readiness, started

at half-past three. These "bankas," though hewn out of a solid log, are from thirty to fifty feet long, and three to four or five wide. They are furnished with an arched mat awning, which can be elevated or lowered at pleasure, and the bottom is laid with a grating of bamboo, quite smooth, forming an excellent couch in the horizontal or recumbent position. By the polite attention of our host, we were furnished with pillows, mats, cigars, and sundry other "creature comforts," and were very soon comfortably disposed in the bottom of the canoe; four men forward with paddles, one abaft steering.

The convent is about six miles up the river, on the right hand, a solid extensive stone edifice, standing on an eminence, (the site of most of the "Haciendas" belonging to the religious orders in this country, appear well chosen) and commanding the best prospect of Manilla, the village of Santa Anna, the windings of the river with the shipping in the bay, and a considerable expanse of country.

Here are solitary walks, through orchards of lime, citron, mango, and orange trees, and a fountain issuing from a rock, supplying baths at some distance off, cut also in the rock, and covered with mat awning, with a covered way to the house. We were hospitably received, and partook of chocolate and "dulce;" and after sauntering about, each as his fancy prompted, enjoying the scenery, catching insects, and other objects of curiosity, returned to the banka at sun-set.

"Here spreads a green expanse of plains,
Where sweetly pensive silence reigns;
And there at utmost stretch of eye,
A mountain fades into the sky;
While winding round, diffused and deep,
The river rolls with sounding sweep."—*Mallet*.

The evening was fine and serene, the sun had just set in the greatest splendour, gilding the summits of the distant mountains, and projecting the lengthened shadows across the vale; whilst the moon, slowly ascending from the eastern horizon, shed her milder influence, and cast a silvery lustre on the water; the ripple from the paddles, and the murmur of the "banka" gently gliding over the glassy surface; the chirping vespers of the feathered tribe, suddenly interrupted by the diving splash of the king fisher; the ceaseless hum of the innumerable insects, with the coruscation of the fire-fly darting athwart the shade; the occasional gleam of the cottage lamp from behind a clump of bamboos, and the barking of a dog as we passed—formed altogether a scene of great beauty and tranquillity, which will not be soon forgotten by one of the party.

" On such a night,
When the soft wind did gently kiss the trees,
And they did make no noise; on such a
Night did Jessica steal from the wealthy Jew,
And with an unthrift love, did fly from
Venice, as far as Mantua."—*Shakspeare*.

The country around Manilla is low, level, and entirely occupied in rice ground, which is overflowed with water two or three months in the year; the climate during this period is hot and sultry, and yet epidemic and endemial diseases are extremely rare. The Cholera Morbus prevailed to a frightful extent in 1821, neither before nor since, but solitary spasmodic cases have been observed at other periods.

A chronic diarrhoea amongst the natives, and an intermittent fever with Europeans advanced in life, are most dreaded by the medical men, and fre-

quently baffle all professional aid; but on the whole Manilla, for climate and situation, is considered one of the most salubrious on the globe, and many persons there attain extraordinary longevity.

I cannot take leave of Manilla without expressing my most grateful sense of the extreme kindness experienced by me from all—but more particular from Don Gullielmo Keirulf, in whose house I enjoyed all the comforts of a home—no superfluous ceremony, but the easy, social, unreserved intercourse of long acquaintance. The privacy of retirement without solitude, and the pleasures of society without restraint: an excellent horse at my sole disposal, and even his valuable time devoted to my assistance, in collecting objects of natural history, birds, shells, &c. In ancient times, when hospitality was a sacred duty, it could not have been practised with more scrupulous devotion. The charms of society in this mansion were not a little heightened by the amiable and cheerful disposition of its elegant mistress, and the artless and innocent prattle of two very intelligent children; in short, pleasures enjoyed with great satisfaction and relinquished with regret. From Messrs. Zobel and Bouchard I experienced very kind and gentlemanly attention, as well as from the English merchants, Messrs. Butler and Gillies, at whose hospitable board, we partook of “the feast of reason and the flow of soul,” with all the luxuries of the east.

CHAP. X.

Feb. 8th, 1833.—SAILED from Manilla with light easterly winds, which continued till we made Pulo Saypata, a rock in the China sea, so named from its likeness to a shoe. It is abrupt and perpendicular, with strong currents near it, and the resort of multitudes of sea fowl, particularly the cormorant, one of which I procured, it having alighted on the ship after dark.

February 20th.—Got sight of Pietre Branco and Cape Romania, the south-east point of Iohore, and came to an anchor for the night; and the following day, at six in the evening, brought up at Singapore. I accompanied the captain on shore in a small sampan, or boat, pulled by four Malay boys, with paddles, covered with a mat, laid over an horizontal pole.

On landing, we called upon Andrew Hay, Esq., a most respectable merchant, (an acquaintance of the captain,) who most kindly and politely offered us the accommodation of his house during the ship's stay in the port.

As our detention was to be very short, we accepted the offer in the same spirit that prompted it, and received the most kind and cordial attention.

Singapore is a small low island, about twenty-five miles long from east to west, and ten broad, situated at the southern extremity of the peninsula of Malacca, forming, from its position, a complete key to the navigation of those seas.

It was taken possession of, and became subject to the Honorable East India Company in 1819, in lieu of some possessions relinquished in the island

of Sumatra: the importance and value of this new establishment are becoming every day more apparent, fully realizing the enthusiastic anticipation of its founders.

The Rajah, who was its hereditary ruler, receives the satisfactory equivalent of 24,000 dollars annual pension, and the inhabitants now enjoy the blessings of protection and trade, in lieu of their former precarious life of piracy and rapine.

The country is low, level, and uncleared, a kind of ferruginous clay, with sandy substratum, apparently fertile, being covered with lofty timber and luxuriant vegetation. The climate is moist and warm, and congenial to all tropical fruits, and the more valuable spices, nutmegs, cloves, &c. which appear to flourish exceedingly in the Company's garden; agriculture has not excited any attention here as yet, the exertions of man being probably more beneficially directed to commerce.

The population of Singapore is increasing very fast; the last census, taken in January, 1833, gives the following result:

	Males.		Females.
Europeans	91	....	28
Indo-Britons	56	....	40
Native Christians	167	....	133
Armenians	27	....	8
Jews	2	....	—
Arabs	96	....	—
Malays.....	3763	....	3368
Chinese	7650	....	867
Natives of India.....	2151	924
Javanese	361	234
Bugis	794	932
Caffres.....	23	14

Total.....	20,978
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Almost the whole of this population reside in the town, except about five thousand scattered among thirty small islands in the vicinity, which are comprised in the territory of Singapore.

The country of Singapore is still uncleared and unoccupied, the Company's land-regulations prohibiting all attempt at agriculture; but clearing leases are now granted for fifteen years, at one dollar an acre per annum; or long leases at ten dollars per acre; so that the Chinese who might become cultivators of the soil, will not undertake it. In the town, building-land is let at forty-five dollars per acre, and the respectable buildings increase apparently very fast.

The town, built on the western side of a swampy creek, consists of stone houses of two-story, but in the suburbs, "Campong Glam," "Campong Malacca," and "Campong China," bamboo huts are erected on posts, most of them standing in the stagnant water. There are likewise many Malays living in "Sampan," in the centre of the creek which forms the harbour; these rest on the mud at low water. The climate, from its situation, $1^{\circ} 30'$ north, preserves a constant high temperature, and there is much rain at all seasons; yet, notwithstanding these disadvantages, so unfavourable to health, Singapore is considered one of the healthiest places in the world. Epidemic fevers and dysenteries are unknown, and even intermittents are of rare occurrence.

What will the sapient Pathologists, who have been puzzling their brains for the last twenty years to discover a specific miasma in every corner, say to this? A dense population, in apparently the worst situation on the face of the globe, yet free from contagion, infection, morbid miasma, or the more

subtle and delusive unknown atmospheric condition, which has almost terrified the profession in Europe from their propriety the last two or three years. Brethren, verily we must take up a new position, or candidly confess that there is still "pretty considerable obscurity" over these important points.

The British merchants have commenced many improvements in Singapore, by the erection of substantial and ornamental houses on the eastern side of the harbour, ranged along and fronting the beach. The floor is generally raised about three feet from the ground, with an entrance by an ascent of broad granite stairs under a portico, supported by magnificent Grecian columns, of all the orders of architecture, though the Ionic is most prevalent. The rooms are lofty, with Venetian windows down to the floor, and furnished in a comfortable, almost luxurious, manner, with couches, baths, billiard tables, &c., while grounds laid out with evergreens of luxuriant foliage, afford a splendid prospect from the shipping in the roadstead.

Society at this place takes its tone entirely from that of Bengal and Madras; and is divided as at those Presidencies into four distinct castes—1st. The civilians of the Company 2d. The military. 3d. First class merchants. 4th. Second class merchants, shopkeepers, &c.; and notwithstanding the paucity of their numbers they are as exclusive in their coteries as the leaders of ton in Park-lane or Grosvenor-square.

There are an American missionary and two Roman Catholics, but as yet no house of worship. A Romish chapel is in progress, and near its completion; and some who would not give a farthing for the advancement of their own religion, are liberal enough to contribute handsomely in aid of a church for others.

The humbler classes are uneducated, but honest and faithful to their employers.

Four Malay boys attended our ship in a "samban," small boat, at one quarter dollar per diem for the whole. On our departure we embarked late at night, leaving in the boat a boat-cloak, and two fans I had purchased value about two dollars; we weighed and made sail from the anchorage at day-light the following morning. There was a light breeze and the ship made some way, when, will it be credited, the Malay boys pulled about six miles after the ship to restore the property.

I blush to state that I was astonished at the conduct of these boys; had they possessed the advantages of learning and philosophy, or been members of a scientific watermans' institute, they might have reasoned thus: "they have been careless enough to leave these things in our boat; there is no penalty incurred by our appropriation of them to our own use; at all events, it is not imperative on us to take much trouble and fatigue to restore them."

But *they* could not reason: they knew we had forgotten the articles—the natural impulse was right, and they spared neither trouble nor fatigue to restore them to us. If the schoolmaster had implanted such lessons, mankind would probably have been spared the convulsions which have at different periods shaken the foundations of society in the most learned countries in the world.

"Vain is the tree of knowledge without fruit."

Thomson, Castle of Indolence.

Singapore is rising very fast in commercial importance, and from its admirable position, it must become (nearly what it is already) the principal emporium of the Eastern Archipelago. The whole produce of the eastern coast of Sumatra is carried

to this mart; pepper, coffee, betel-nut, bees-wax, ivory, gold, copper, tin, and antimony, from Campar and Siac; and they take in return cottons, iron, salt, and opium.

This trade alone, formerly engrossed by the Dutch, is of great extent and importance, and notwithstanding the most jealous vigilance of that people, who have three settlements on the island, Padang, Bencoolen, and Palamban, all the independent states of Sumatra give the decided preference to Singapore. The Javanese and Siamese bring their rice, sugar, and coffee, for Europe; the people of Celebes, tripang, bird's-nest, and sharks'-fins, for the epicures of the celestial empire; the Dyaks and Harjafuras of Borneo furnish their gold and jewels; the demi-amphibious Solooan dives beneath the crystal wave for the pearl and window-oyster, or drags the unwilling tortoise to the shore to furnish combs for the golden tresses of northern beauty: the various products of these islands concentrate at Singapore for distribution over the whole of the habitable globe. The establishment of Singapore as a free-port (there being neither harbour dues, duties, or charges of any description) has contributed to advance its interests with an accelerated pace; and in fact it has already realized the most sanguine expectations of Sir Stamford Raffles, who had the first management of the infant establishment.

CHAP. XI.

February 23rd.—SAILED from Singapore at daylight, and stood to the westward, to pass through the straits of Dryon. Weather fine. At five in the evening the ship struck on a coral reef, a little to the westward of Red Island, between it and the Carimans.

This naturally occasioned a good deal of consternation and bustle; the boats were got out, and a stream anchor carried astern; it was high water, and fortunately the ship was soon hove off, when we immediately anchored, as the tide was falling, and we appeared to be surrounded with broken water. In the midst of these difficulties four prows were observed standing out from the Carimans, (small islands, the noted resort of Malay pirates) under sail towards our ship. This was an excitement of a more exhilarating nature than the last, for the ship was now afloat; and instant preparation was made for giving them a hearty reception. The carronades, four in number, were loaded with round shot and canister. The muskets were charged and flinted afresh, the rusty cutlasses got a summary touch of the grindstone, and the natural enthusiastic ardor of the British tar was eminently conspicuous in the confidence and alertness with which these preparations were made.

However we had not an opportunity of displaying our prowess: the wind veered about a

little ; the prows hauled their wind ; they were probably small trading vessels passing among the islands.

When the tide ebbed at low water, we found the ship enclosed in a circular basin of coral reefs, with small openings in intermediate spaces, and sounding for the deepest channel, we warped the ship out the following morning, and made sail to the southward through the straits of Dryon.

These straits are narrow, formed by small islands, and the sea as smooth as a lake ; we generally come to an anchor at night keeping close along the eastern coast of Sumatra, which is low, level, and covered with an impenetrable forest ; it is apparently the embouchure of some large rivers, as the water was discoloured a considerable distance from the shore, and large trees and various plants floated on the surface.

We passed through the Strait of Banka, anchoring every night as heretofore. The Dutch claim the sovereignty of Banka, and have two settlements in the Strait, "Minto" on the island, and "Palam-ban," situated on a river of the same name, on the opposite coast of Sumatra.

March 2d.—Anchored at Rajah Bassa, the southern extremity of Sumatra, in the Strait of Sunda, nearly opposite Anger, a Dutch settlement on the coast of Java, and were quickly visited by the natives in their canoes, bringing poultry, rice, pumpkins, cocoa-nuts, birds, monkeys, shells, &c., for trade. They are a fine race of Malays, tall and well-formed, expert dealers, and very anxious to procure fire-arms, powder, and flints. We filled up the water-casks ; the water is excellent ; we purchased all the stock we could procure, remaining at the anchorage only thirty-six hours.

The island of Sumatra is of very considerable

extent, extending longitudinally from the Strait of Sundy, $6^{\circ} 40'$ south, about six hundred miles north, to the Straits of Malacca, $3^{\circ} 30'$ north latitude; and from its figure and position, forms a complete breakwater to the Eastern Archipelago. The island is mountainous and rugged along the western side, whilst the eastern shore is uniformly low and level, rising barely above the surface of the ocean.

The Dutch claim the entire sovereignty of this Island since it was relinquished by the British in 1819, when our right was ceded to them in lieu of Singapore.

But still there are numerous small independent states, and one principal one, Menangkabu, which is acknowledged by the rest as the head of the Malays in Sumatra, and occupies a central position a hundred miles east of Padang. There is something extremely amusing in reflecting on the policy of European powers, who cede and distribute territories, by the magic touch of a pen, over which they never possessed any right or title, human or divine—not even the equivocal one of conquest or occupation. When will the idea of natural right and justice, supplant that of expediency and profit, in the counsels of mankind?

This island abounded in valuable productions, and enjoyed considerable commerce in the twelfth century, when visited by Marco Polo, who resided here five months, and who furnished the first account of the sago—"they used," he tells us, "a kind of bread made from the pith of a palm-tree."

At that period also, the Rajah of Bantam, a district of Java, possessed great maritime power; his prowess were the terror of the Archipelago, and he levied contributions on, *i. e.* plundered at discretion, all the smaller and defenceless islands.

CHAP. XIII.

I SHALL offer no apology for making free with Sir Stamford Raffles' enlightened book on the different states comprised in this Malayan or Eastern Archipelago, as it is by far the best I have had an opportunity of consulting on the subject, and I apprehend few (except those interested in the eastern trade) have had the pleasure of perusing it.

Of the Malays who inhabit the interior of Sumatra, and are settled on the coasts throughout the Archipelago, it may be necessary to speak in the first place.

The peculiar character of this people has always excited much attention, and various and opposite opinions have been entertained regarding them. By some who have viewed only the darker side they have been considered, with reference to their piracies and vices alone, as a people devoid of all governing principle, and abandoned to the influence of lawless and headstrong passions. By others, however, who have taken a deeper view, and become more intimately acquainted with their character, a different estimate has been formed.

These admit the want of efficient government, but consider the people themselves to be possessed of high qualities, such as might, under more favourable circumstances, be usefully and beneficially directed. They also find, in the personal independence of character which they display, a high sense of honour and impatience of insult; and in their habits of reasoning and reflection, discover the rudi-

ments of improvement, and the basis of a better order of society: while in the obscurity of their early history, the wide diffusion of their language, and numerous traces of their former greatness, they perceive an infinite source of speculation and interest.

That they once occupied a more commanding political station in these seas appears to be beyond doubt; and that they maintained this position till after the introduction of Mahomedanism, seems equally certain. From the geographical position of the more important countries then occupied by them, they were the first who came in contact with the Mussulman Missionaries, and embraced their tenets.

Their power was on the decline when Europeans first visited these seas. At that period, however, the authority of Menangkabu, the ancient seat of Government, was still acknowledged, and the states of Acheen and Malacca long disputed the progress of the Portuguese arms.

The whole of Sumatra at one period was subject to the supreme power of Menangkabu; and evidence of the former grandeur and superiority of this state is still found, not only in the pompous edicts of its sovereigns, and in the veneration and respect paid to the most distant branches of the ruling family, but in the comparatively high and improved state of cultivation of the country, and in the vestiges of antiquity which have recently been discovered in it.

Menangkabu occupies the central district of Sumatra, and contains between one and two millions of inhabitants, the whole of whom (with the exception of those employed in the gold mines, for which it has always been celebrated) are

devoted to agriculture. The remains of sculpture and inscriptions found near the ancient capital, correspond with those discovered in Java, and prove the natives to have been under the influence of the Hindoo faith, which prevailed in that island till the establishment of Mahommedanism in the fifteenth century.

At what period the people of Menangkabu embraced the doctrines of the Prophet does not appear: this would form an interesting subject of inquiry.

The conversion of the people of Malacca and Acheen took place in the thirteenth century; but it is uncertain whether Munangkabu was converted previous to this date, although the Prophet's doctrines are said to have been preached in Sumatra as early as the twelfth century.

About this latter period a colony appears to have issued from the interior of Sumatra, and established the maritime state of Singapura, at the extremity of the Malay peninsula; here a line of Hindoo princes continued to reign, until the establishment of Malacca, and the conversion of its people in 1276. Whatever may in more remote times have been the nature of the intercourse between Menangkabu and foreign nations, we know that Singapura, during the period noticed, was an extensively maritime and commercial state; and that on the first arrival of the Portuguese, it possessed the largest portion of the commerce between the eastern and western nations.

It is not necessary to enter into the history of the decline and fall of the Malay States of Acheen and Malacca, and the establishment of Johore.

The maritime and commercial enterprise of the people had already spread throughout the Archipelago; and the power and policy of their Euro-

pean visitors, by breaking down their larger settlements, contributed to disperse them still more widely, compelling them to form smaller establishments wherever they could escape the power of their oppressors.

The opinion generally entertained of the character of this people having been taken from the maritime states, it may be sufficient, on the present occasion, to advert to some particulars in the constitution of their government, and to the habits and character of the people who compose them.

The government of these states, which are established in more or less power on the different rivers on the eastern coast of Sumatra, and on the Malayan Peninsula, as well as the coast of Borneo, and throughout the smaller islands, is founded on principles entirely feudal. A high respect is paid to the person and family of the Prince, who usually traces his descent through a long line of ancestors, generally originating on the Malayan side from Menangkabu or Johore, and not unfrequently on the Mahomedan side from the descendants of the Prophet.

The nobles are chiefs, at the head of a numerous train of dependants, whose services they command.

Their civil institutions and internal policy are a mixture of the Mahomedan, with their own more ancient and peculiar customs and usages, the latter predominating. In the principal states they are collected and preserved in an ill-digested code, but in the inferior establishments they are trusted to tradition.

The Malays, with all their faults, are distinguished not only for the high respect they pay to ancestry and nobility of descent, for their entire

devotion to their chiefs, and the cause they undertake, but for venerating and reverencing the experience and opinion of their elders. They never enter into an enterprise without duly weighing its advantages and consequences ; but when once embarked in it they devote themselves to its accomplishment. They are sparing of their labour, and judicious in its application, but when roused into action are not wanting in spirit or enthusiasm. In their commercial dealings they are keen and speculative, a spirit of gaming is very prevalent, and in their habits they are far from penurious.

With a knowledge of this character, we may find, in the circumstances in which they have been placed, some excuse for the frequent piracies, and the practice of "running a muck," with which they have so often and so justly been accused. That European policy, which first destroyed the independence of their principal states, and subsequently appropriated to itself the whole trade of the Archipelago, left them without the means of honest subsistence, while by the extreme severity of tortures and punishments it drove them to a state of desperation ; thus piracy became patriotic and honourable, and that devotion, which on another occasion we would have called a virtue, became a crime and a reproach.

Of the Javans a higher estimate may be formed, though deficient in the native boldness and enterprise of character which distinguishes the Malays ; they have many qualities in common with them, but bear deeper traces of foreign influence, and at the present period at least, stand much higher in the scale of civilization. They are almost exclusively agricultural, and in the extraordinary fertility

of their country they find sufficient inducement to prefer a life of comparative ease and comfort within their own shores, to one of enterprise and hazard beyond them. The causes, which have contributed to their present improved state, are various, but, however interesting, do not come within the limits of this paper.

The Madurese, who inhabit a neighbouring island, are distinguished for more spirit and enterprise; but the people in that quarter, more peculiarly attracting our notice, are those of Bali, an island situated immediately east of Java; they exhibit at the present day the extraordinary fact, of the existence of an independent Hindoo government in this remote quarter of the East. It was here that, on the establishment of Mahomedanism in Java, in the fifteenth century, the Hindoos who adhered to their religious faith took refuge, where they have preserved the recollection of their former greatness, and the records and ceremonies of their religion.

This island, no part of which has ever been subject to European dominion, contains, with Lombok an adjoining island, a population not far short of a million. The coasts are unfavourable to commerce, and the people have not hitherto been much inclined to distant enterprise. The island itself has long been subject to all the horrors of an active slave trade, by which means its inhabitants have been distributed among European settlements. A more humane commerce has however latterly been attracted to it, and both Bugguese and Chinese have formed small establishments in their principal towns.

In their personal character they are remarkable for a high independence and impatience of controul;

while a redundant population, added to the slave-trade, has separated them into various states, which are generally at war with each other.

In the island of Celebes we find the people of a still more enterprising character, and the elective form of government offers a singular anomaly among Asiatic states, and is not the least peculiar of their institutions.

The Bugguese, as the natives of Celebes are called, are the most adventurous traders of the Archipelago, into every part of which they carry their speculations, and even extend them to the northern coast of New Holland. They are remarkable for fairness of dealing, and the extent of their transactions.

They were probably converted to Mahomedanism at a much later period than either the Javanese or Malays, but not generally till after the arrival of the Portuguese in the sixteenth century.

This island contains an extensive population, but its interior and the north-western portion which are little known, are inhabited by the same description of uncultivated people as are found in the interior of Borneo, and the larger islands to the eastward.

Of the population of the Moluccas, it may be remarked, that they are for the most part Christians of the Lutheran persuasion.

The magnitude and importance of Borneo more particularly attract our attention. Malay settlements are formed on its principal rivers, and extensive colonies of Chinese have established themselves in the vicinity of the gold mines, a short distance inland; but the interior of the island is still unknown.

Various estimates of its population have been formed, but the data are too uncertain to be de-

pended upon. The tribes which inhabit the interior differ much in character, but the majority appear to be engaged in agriculture, and are a race of people which might be easily improved and civilized. Others again are extremely barbarous; and it is said, and generally admitted, that the practice of man-hunting, for the purpose of procuring the heads of the victims, is too frequent among them.

Of this latter description are various tribes, still inhabiting the interior of Celebes, Ceram, and Jelolo, usually known by the appellation of Harafuras or Alfoors. If we add to the above the population of the Philippines, which is estimated at not less than three millions, Magindanao, and the Soolo Archipelago, the Battas, and other inferior tribes of Sumatra, and the woolly-headed race, occasionally found on the peninsula and the larger islands, and more extensively established in Papua or New Guinea; some idea may be formed of the extent and nature of the varied population of this interesting Archipelago.

But we must not pass over in silence the numerous Chinese settlers who now form a considerable portion of the population of the islands, and have given a stimulus to the industry of the inhabitants.

In the island of Java the number of these settlers is not less than 100,000. A similar number is to be found in Siam. In Borneo they are still more numerous, and they are to be met with in every well-regulated state.

The valuable gold mines of Borneo have offered a powerful inducement to their establishment; they are worked almost exclusively by Chinese; and an extensive population of Dayaks, from the interior, is rapidly extending cultivation in their

neighbourhood. There seems to be no limit to the increase of Chinese on this island; the redundancy of population in China, the facility of intercourse which exists with it, and the inducements afforded for colonization in a new soil, (where, in addition to agricultural and commercial resources, the produce of gold and diamonds appears to be only limited by the amount of labour employed,) are such, that to a speculative and industrious people like the Chinese, they must continue to operate, in spite of political restrictions and partial exactions.

It deserves remark, also, that of all the inhabitants of the Archipelago, the Chinese, as well from their assimilating more with the customs of Europeans than the native Mahomedans, as from their habits of obedience and submission to power, are uniformly found to be the most peaceable and improvable.

From the review now taken, it will appear how varied is the population of this Archipelago, both in character and employments, and that it consists both of agricultural and commercial classes, of different ranks in the scale of each—from the wildest tribes who seek a precarious subsistence in their remote forests to the civilized Javan, who has drawn forth the riches of his unequalled soil, and made it the granary of these islands; and from the petty trader, who collects the scattered produce of the interior, to the Chinese capitalist, who receives and again disperses it to more distant regions. Situated between the rich and populous continents of China on the one hand, and India on the other, and furnishing to Europe the means of an extensive commerce, the demand for the produce of these islands is unfailing, while the produce itself is only limited by the extent of the population.

By means of the variety of its tribes, their intermixture and connection with each other, the accessible nature of the coasts washed by the smoothest seas in the world, while large and navigable rivers afford easy communication with the interior, the stimulus of commerce is propagated in successive waves through the whole, and the inexhaustible resources of the country are drawn forth in a manner and to an extent that could not otherwise have been obtained. Each is dependent on the other, and receives and communicates a portion of the general activity. Thus the savage and intractable Batta collects and furnishes the camphor and benjamin, the spontaneous produce of his woods ; the equally barbarous Dayak, or wild Harafura, ransacks the bowels of the earth, to contribute his quota to the general stock. Ascending from these, we find the more civilized Sumatran, whose agriculture is yet rude, employed in raising pepper ; the native of Moluccas, in the culture of the nutmeg and the clove ; the still higher Javanese and Siamese, besides his abundant harvests of rice, supplying Europe with coffee and sugar ; all impelled and set in motion by the active spirit of commerce.

Not less varied are the people who collect this produce from all the different quarters, till it is finally shipped for Europe, India, and China ; from the petty bartering trader, who brings it from the interior to the ports and mouths of the rivers, the Malay who conveys it from port to port, the more adventurous Bugguese who sweeps the remote shores to concentrate their productions at the emporia, to the Chinese merchant, who sends his junks laden with this accumulated produce, to be dispersed through the empire of China, and fur-

nishes to Europeans teas, silks, and cassia—the cargoes of their ships. Through the same diverging channels (of course) are circulated the manufactures of India and Europe, and thus a constant intercourse and circulation is maintained throughout the whole.

How much this intercourse is facilitated by the nature of the countries, broken into innumerable islands, may be readily conceived; and the vastness of the field may be inferred, from the extent to which its commerce has actually been carried, under all the disadvantages of monopolizing policy, and insecurity of person and property, by which causes the condition of the people has been depressed, and their increase prevented.

When we consider that they are placed at the very threshold of China, a country overflowing with an enterprising and industrious population anxious and eager to settle wherever security and protection is afforded; that it is this people who have mainly contributed to excite and support the energies of the native population, and have diffused the impetus of their own activity wherever they have settled, and that protection only is wanted to accumulate them in any numbers, to create, it may be said, a second China; the resources and means of this extraordinary archipelago will appear without limits.

Viewed in this light, Borneo and the eastern islands may become to China what America is to the nations of Europe.

The superabundant and overflowing population of the Everlasting Empire, afford an almost inexhaustible source of colonization, while the pure and fertile soil of these islands offers the means of immediate and plentiful subsistence to any numbers who may settle in them.

How rapidly, under such circumstances, these colonies may increase in population, when the climate is at least as congenial to the Chinese as that of America to Europeans, may be readily conceived from the experience which the latter has afforded. The wealth of their mines, and the extent of their own native population, added to the greater proximity to China, are advantages which were not enjoyed by America, and must contribute to accelerate the progress of colonization.

March 4th.—Sailed from Rajah Bassah, squally disagreeable weather; and on the 6th, took our departure from Java head. We experienced delightful weather down the south-east trades, and passed the Cape of Good Hope on the 19th of April, St. Helena on the 4th of May, and anchored at Ascension the 9th.

The appearance of Ascension is the most desolate and wretched imaginable, dark red brown rocks and mountains, no verdure whatever, even the birds of the air which inhabit here seek their subsistence in the ocean. One would imagine that the volcano which formed the island had recently become extinct, the burnt stones and cinders being just in the state they were when ejected some five hundred years ago. The climate is so dry, that there is not moisture sufficient to promote the decomposition of the scoria or lava.

Since its occupation and establishment as a provision depôt for the African squadron, a number of most important works have been erected; such as a convenient landing-place, commodious and substantial stores, barracks, hospital, water tanks and reservoirs, which last of these preserve all the water on the island. One holds seventeen hundred tons of water, and is generally filled, so

that there is not only an abundant supply of good water for the squadron, but all ships casually passing are now able to fill up their water with the least possible delay, and at a very low charge, as the pipes lead down to the landing-place. There is also produced some vegetation in the valleys (where there is moisture sufficient) to subsist sheep and oxen, to the amount of three hundred. Fish abound on the coast, but the turtle are becoming far less numerous than formerly on the beach. The garrison are very healthy, only seven on the sick list, out of a population of three hundred.

Sailed from Ascension on the 11th of May, and after a fine weather passage arrived at Gravesend on the 25th of June, having traversed an extent of ocean of thirty-eight thousand miles, in one year and nine days.

On taking leave of my friends in the "*Planter*," it is but justice to state that this has been the most agreeable voyage of my life. The owner, Wm. Bottomly, Esq., of Finsbury Square, had the ship fitted out in the most complete and substantial manner. The captain, Mr. L. Frazer, is a gentleman of considerable literary attainments, as well as proficiency in the fine arts, music and painting. In the performance of my public duty, I had his most cordial co-operation and support; and in my private capacity as passenger, all my wishes were anticipated; I have, therefore, great pride and satisfaction in bearing this public testimony to the uniform good conduct, order, and regularity observed on board throughout the whole voyage,—an agreeable contrast to what I had experienced on many other occasions.

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